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Shonen Magazine Comics
よしづきくみち
作品
グーロンフィーユ
全3巻

よしづきくみち

Kumichi Yoshizuki

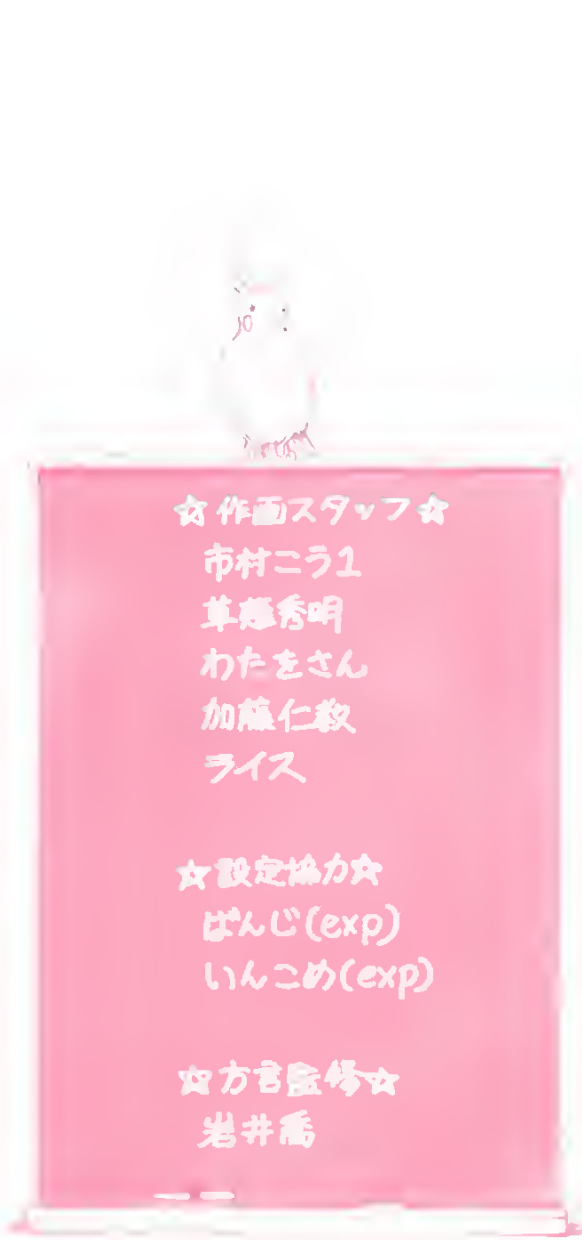
KCM5020
KC MAGAZINE

クーロンフィーユ 3

Coulomb Fille

よしづきくみち
Kumichi Yoshizuki

講談社



☆作画スタッフ☆
市村ニラ1
草薙秀明
わたをさん
加藤仁敦
ライス

☆設定協力☆
ばんじ(exp)
いんこめ(exp)

☆方言監修☆
岩井禹

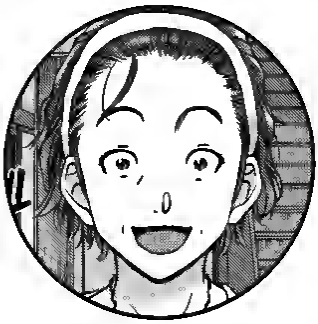
Shoujo Magazine Comics
Coulomb Fille
クーロンフィーユ
3
Kumichi Yoshizuki
よしづきくみち

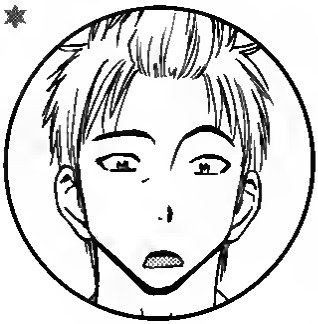
"Coulomb Fille"

—Character Introduction—

Noemi Hokari (14)
A girl who has an "electrostatic body condition" which causes her to electrocute people she touches. She used to refuse to touch anybody, but after meeting Kanzo, something changed...

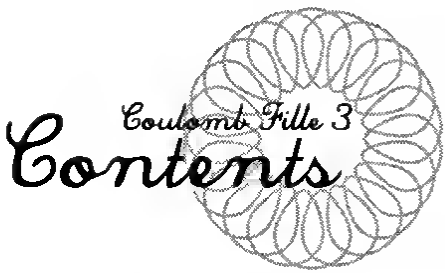
Coro
A cockatiel. Noemi's pet and conversation partner.





Story

夏休み明け、2学期の始業式。転入先のクラスメイトが女子だけ、という環境に衝撃を受けつつ、寛造は教室に現れたコロの姿に胸騒ぎを覚える。急ぎノエミの元に向かった寛造が目にしたのは、火に包まれたノエミの家と、倒れた彼女の姿だった。尾けてきた和人の協力を得て、ノエミを密かに三橋家に担ぎ込み、介抱する寛造。だが、ノエミは迷惑をかけまいと姿を消してしまう。幸いノエミを捜し当てた寛造は、「一緒に暮らそう」「学校にも行こう」と訴える。その後、雨宿りした洞窟で、触れ合っても感電しないことを発見する2人。一瞬2人は、そこで暮らしていく誘惑に駆られるが、人の輪に加わろうと、三橋家に向かうのだった。ゆりえの周りをうろつく怪しい男がいるとも知らず……。



10 COULOMB A PLACE TO BELONG. 005

11 COULOMB HERO. 043

12 COULOMB A MOUNTAIN STORM'S FEELINGS. 079

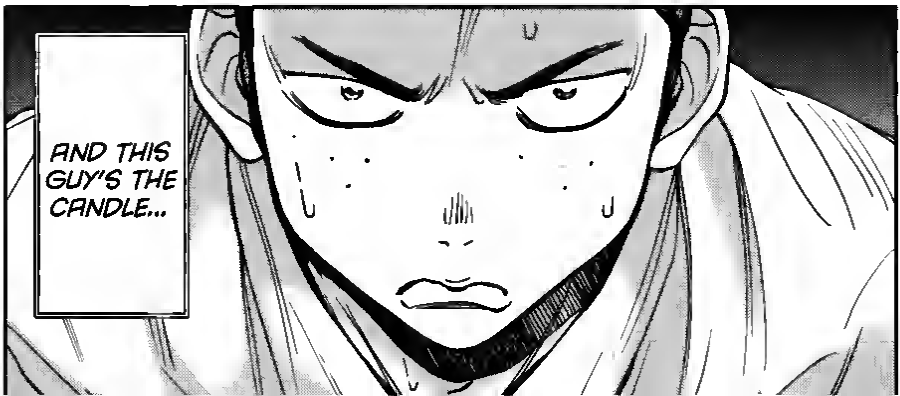
13 COULOMB FRIEND. 115

LAST COULOMB WHEREVER IN THE WORLD. 150

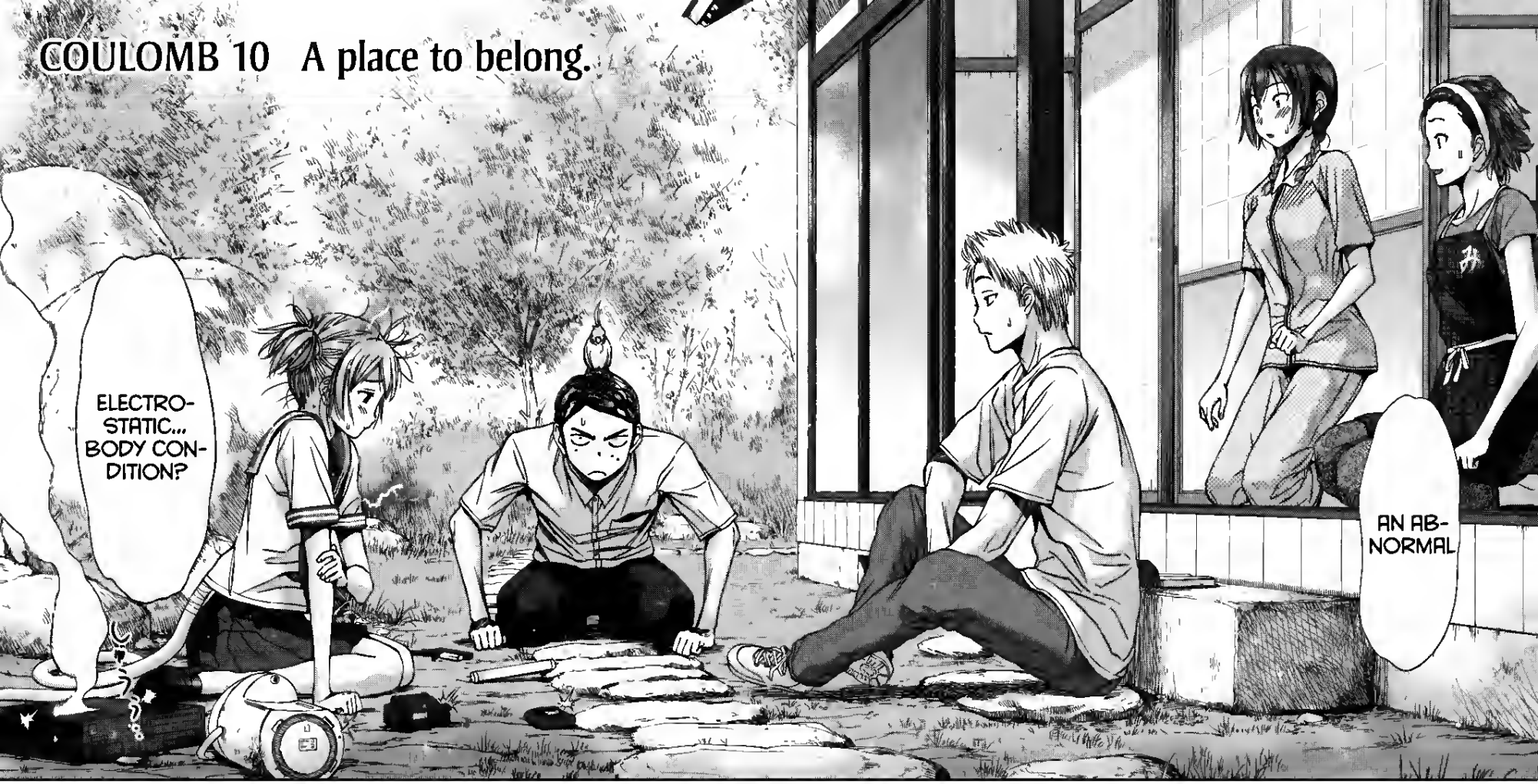
OUCH!
WHEN KANZO SHOWED UP WITH NOEMI,

CAME TO MY MIND.
THAT HAS A BITE TO IT.
THE OLD CARTOON "THE TALLOW CANDLE"

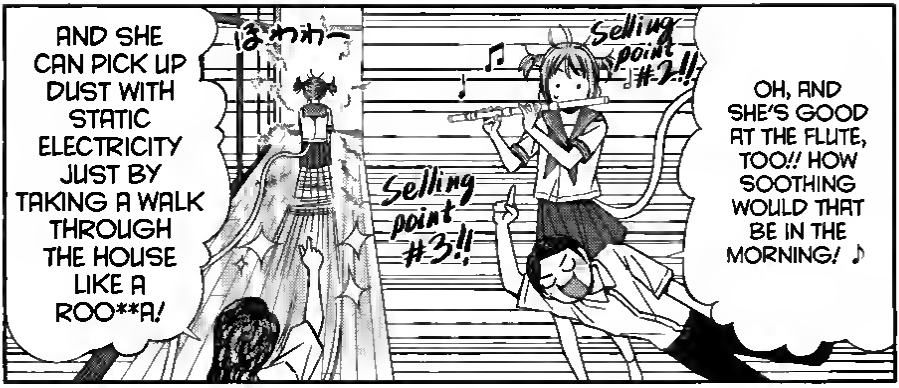
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SHE WOULD PRO-BABLY BE THE TINDER-BOX,

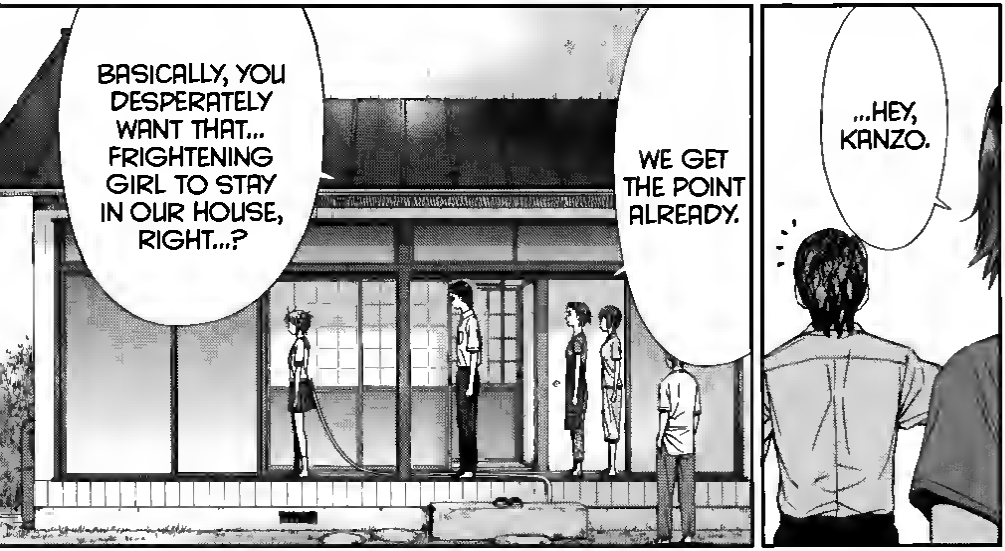

AND THIS GUY'S THE CANDLE...

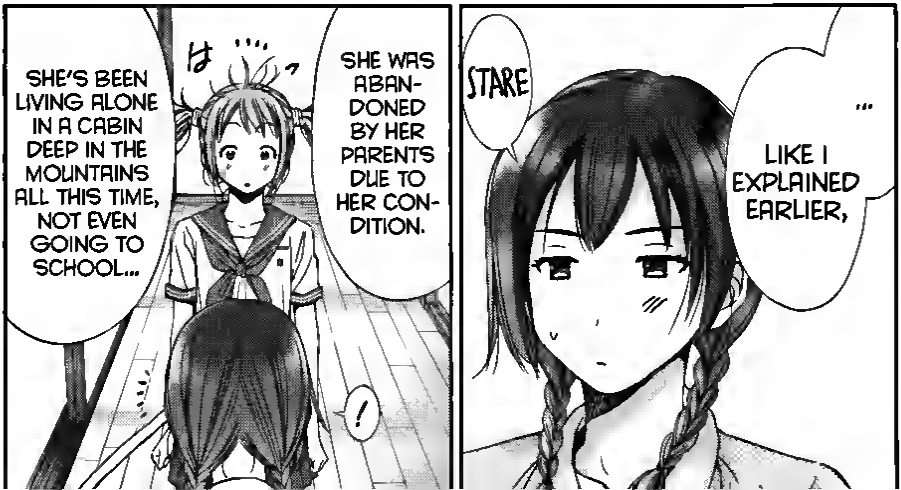
COULOMB 10 A place to belong.

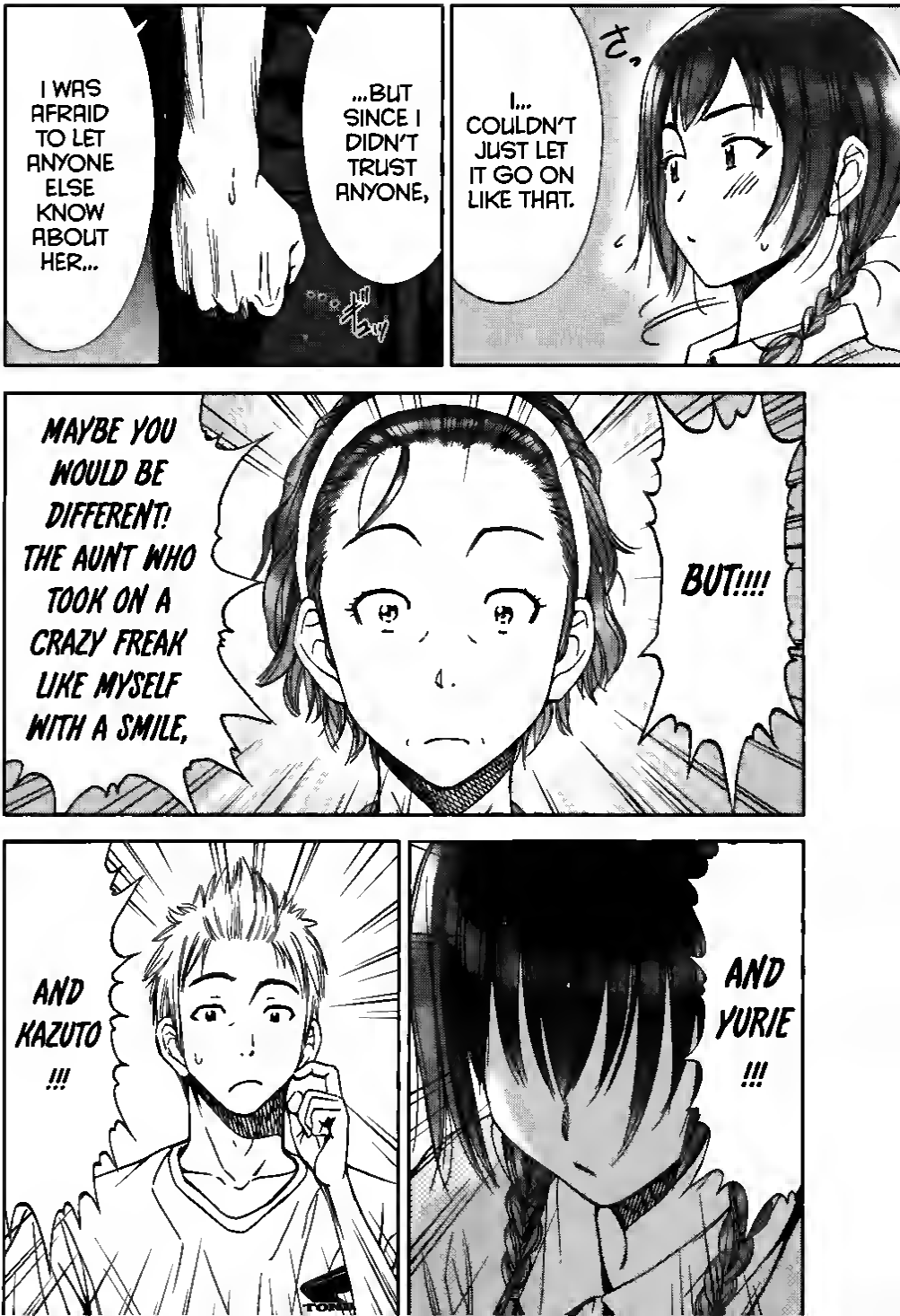


SHE'LL CHASE DOWN ANY TARGET WITH 100% GUARANTEED ELECTRICAL TERMI-NATION!!
WHAT'S MORE, SHE'S SUPER QUICK ON HER FEET!!
I'm not a muscle-head!
YEAH!! EVEN MUSCLE-HEADS LIKE KAZUTO OR MYSELF CAN'T AVOID A 1-HIT K.O. FROM HER!!
This is a bit much...
SELLING POINT #1!!!
SO HOW ABOUT IT?! SECURITY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THESE DAYS!
A WATCHDOG STUNGUN GIRL!!! WILL YOU EMPLOY NOEMI HOKARI AS A HOUSE GUARD??!!
...しーーん...
...

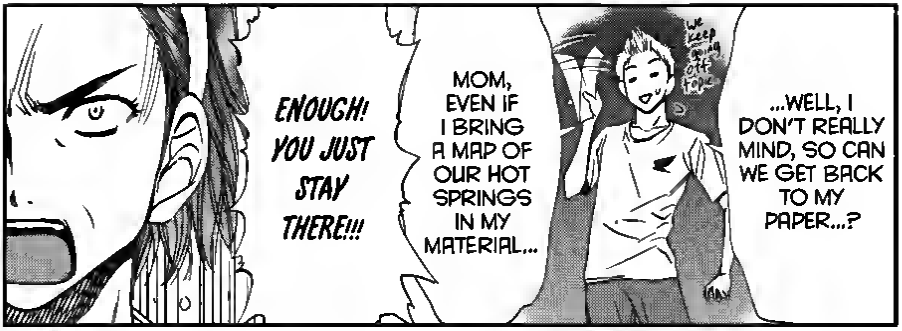

AND SHE CAN PICK UP DUST WITH STATIC ELECTRICITY JUST BY TAKING A WALK THROUGH THE HOUSE LIKE A ROO**A!
ほわわー
Selling point #2!!
Selling point #3!!
OH, AND SHE'S GOOD AT THE FLUTE, TOO!! HOW SOOTHING WOULD THAT BE IN THE MORNING! ♪

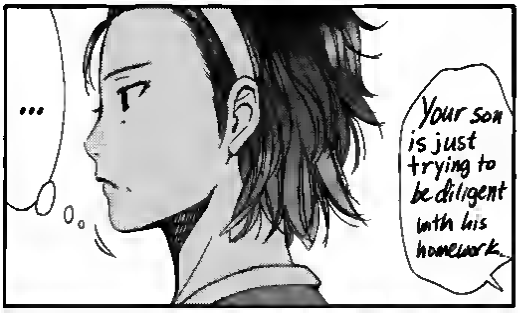

BASICALLY, YOU DESPERATELY WANT THAT... FRIGHTENING GIRL TO STAY IN OUR HOUSE, RIGHT...?
WE GET THE POINT ALREADY.
...HEY, KANZO.


SHE'S BEEN LIVING ALONE IN A CABIN DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS ALL THIS TIME, NOT EVEN GOING TO SCHOOL...
は……
SHE WAS ABAN-DONED BY HER PARENTS DUE TO HER CON-DITION.
!
STARE
...
LIKE I EXPLAINED EARLIER,


I WAS AFRAID TO LET ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT HER...
...BUT SINCE I DIDN'T TRUST ANYONE,
I... COULDN'T JUST LET IT GO ON LIKE THAT.
さ、
MAYBE YOU WOULD BE DIFFERENT! THE AUNT WHO TOOK ON A CRAZY FREAK LIKE MYSELF WITH A SMILE,
BUT!!!!
AND KAZUTO !!!
AND YURIE !!!

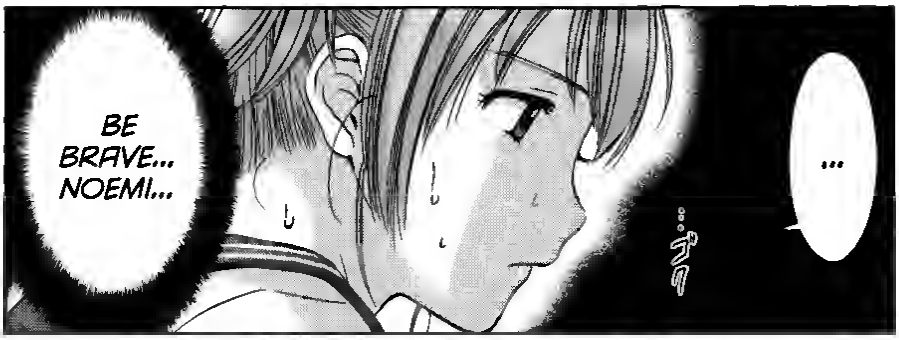
Hi!
THIS UNIFORM NOEMI'S WEARING...
I GOT IT FROM AN IMPORT SHOP THIS MORNING... I ASKED IF I COULD BORROW A DISPLAY SET!
THIS IS HOW PREPARED AND PASSIONATE I AM ABOUT THIS!
PLEASE...WOULD YOU CONSIDER ALLOWING THIS... NORMAL 14 YEAR OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT STAY HERE WITH US...?
I'M BEGGING YOU, MITSUHASHI FAMILY...!!

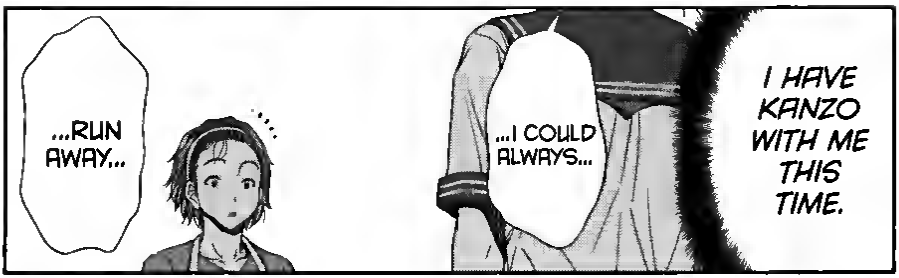

ENOUGH! YOU JUST STAY THERE!!!
MOM, EVEN IF I BRING A MAP OF OUR HOT SPRINGS IN MY MATERIAL...
...WELL, I DON'T REALLY MIND, SO CAN WE GET BACK TO MY PAPER...?


...
Your son is just trying to be diligent with his homework.

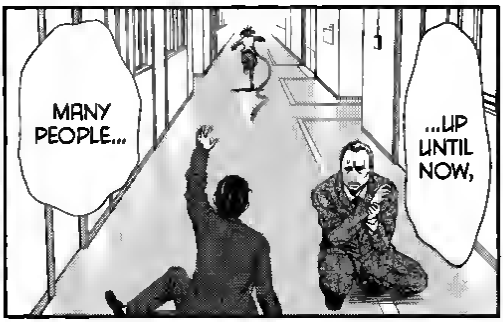
ARE YOU TELLING US THIS NOW BECAUSE YOU TRUST US NOW?
...KANZO.

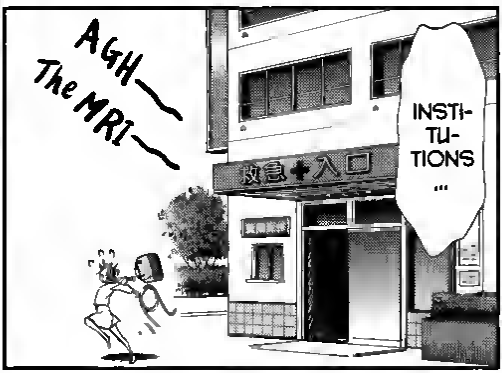
I WANT TO HEAR YOUR WISHES STRAIGHT FROM YOU.
NOEMI... RIGHT? WHAT ABOUT YOU?


BE BRAVE... NOEMI...
...


...RUN AWAY...
...I COULD ALWAYS...
I HAVE KANZO WITH ME THIS TIME.

AND CITIES...


MANY PEOPLE...
...UP UNTIL NOW,

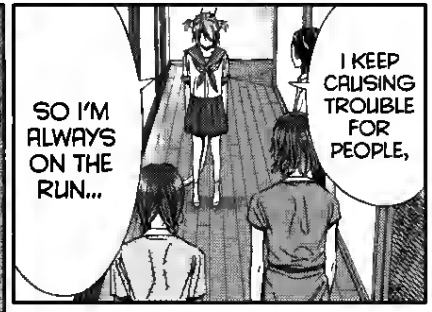

AGH— The MRI—
INSTI-TU-TIONS...
救急✚入口

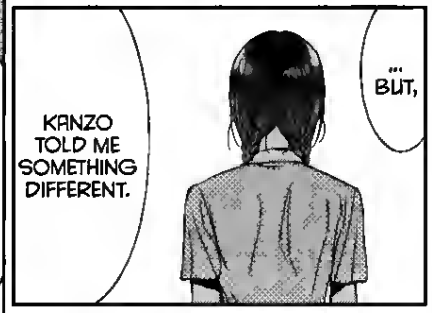
JUST RUNNING AND RUNNING INTO THE DISTANCE...
RUN-NING AWAY...
...HAVE SEEN ME...

I REALLY LOVE PEOPLE MORE THAN I CAN BEAR...
BUT...
IN TRUTH ...

...I...
I'VE BEEN LIVING AWAY FROM PEOPLE ALL THIS TIME,

HE SAID HE WOULD BE WITH ME.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO TRY TURNING AROUND AND RUNNING TOWARDS PEOPLE...FOR A CHANGE.

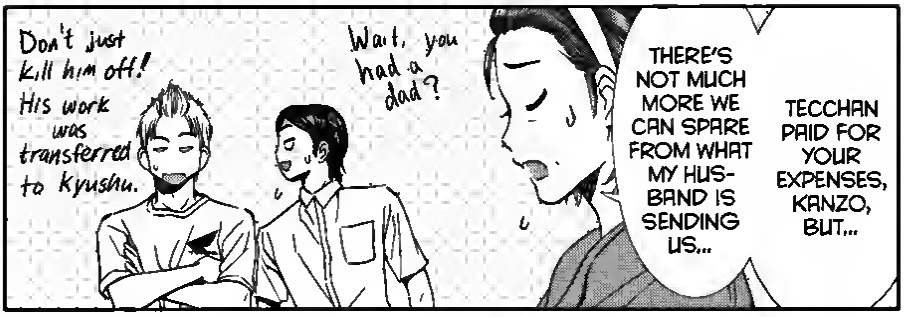

SO I'M ALWAYS ON THE RUN...
I KEEP CAUSING TROUBLE FOR PEOPLE,


KANZO TOLD ME SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
... BUT,

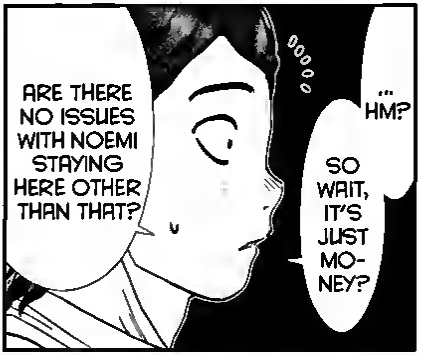
EVEN I...

WANT TO... MINGLE WITH PEOPLE...!!

...SHE'S TOTALLY SERIOUS.
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, MOM?
.....
I CAN'T!!!! NO MONEY!!!!
...M...M... MONEY...??
UGH! IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
We're even in season, but...
EMPTY
TO BE HONEST, MANAGING A LODGE IS NO EASY TASK...


Don't just kill him off! His work was transferred to Kyushu.
Wait, you had a dad?
THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE WE CAN SPARE FROM WHAT MY HUSBAND IS SENDING US...
TECCHAN PAID FOR YOUR EXPENSES, KANZO, BUT...

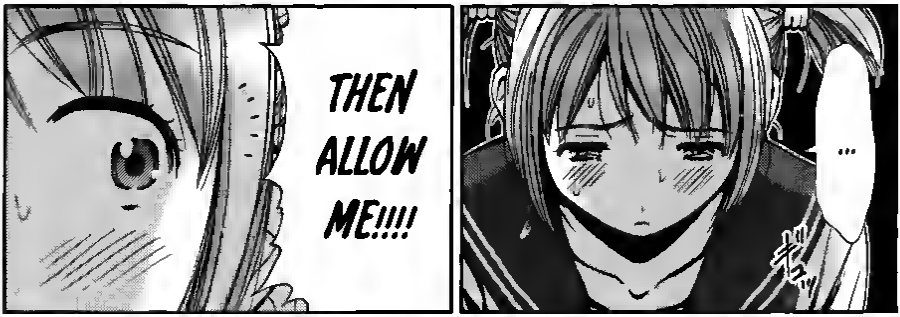
お・ナちかん
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A BIG DEAL.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS JUST AVOID GETTING SHOCKED, RIGHT?


ARE THERE NO ISSUES WITH NOEMI STAYING HERE OTHER THAN THAT?
...HM?
SO WAIT, IT'S JUST MONEY?

UGH... THEN THERE'S THE DEBT...
...WOW...
IS SUCH AN IDIOT!!!!
MY AUNT...

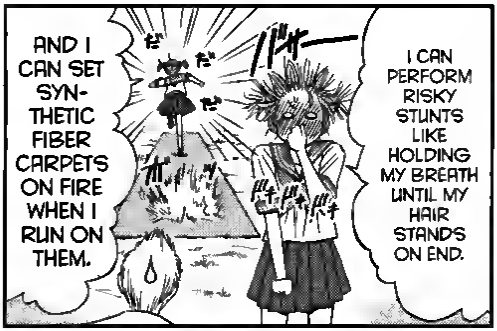
HAVE TO DO...?
...ALL WE...

ANYWAYS, DO YOU TWO HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IMPORTANT A THING MONEY IS?!
IT'S A CRUEL WORLD OUT THERE!!
!!


THEN ALLOW ME!!!!
...

I'LL WORK MY ASS OFF
AND EARN THAT MONEY !!!!

I BET A "DRIED SEAWEED FREAK VS. THE GENIUS SISTER LOVER" BATTLE SHOW WOULD BE PRETTY POPULAR, WOULDN'T IT?!
Well?!
Huh?!
DON'T PULL ME INTO THIS! AND POPULAR MY ASS!
...!!


I CAN PERFORM RISKY STUNTS LIKE HOLDING MY BREATH UNTIL MY HAIR STANDS ON END.
AND I CAN SET SYN-THETIC FIBER CARPETS ON FIRE WHEN I RUN ON THEM.

I'LL DO SOME-THING, TOO!!!
I-I-I-

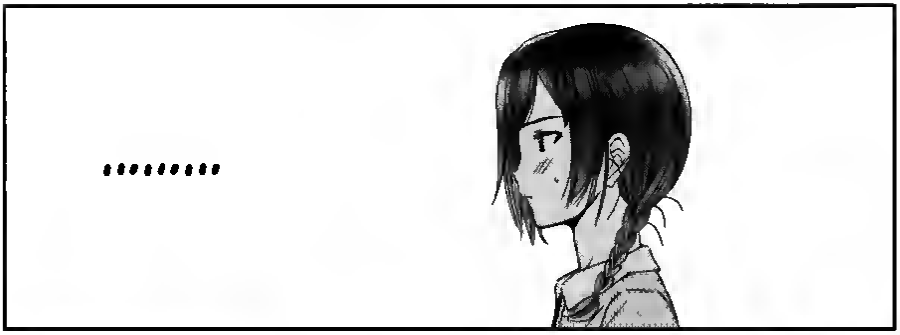
OH, AND WHEN I HOLD BAMBOO CHARCOAL, IT STARTS GLOWING!!
ぼやあぁ

WHOA! THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY COOL! IS THAT HOW EDISON'S BAMBOO FILAMENT WORKED?!
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, THAT WOULD BE USEFUL WHEN WALKING AROUND AT NIGHT!

OH!! I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ELSE!!!
ELEC-TRICITY... BAMBOO CHARCOAL ...WHEN COMBINED, WHAT...
... BAM-BOO CHAR-COAL?
WHOA?!
Oh—Hiro took Mito...
DON'T BE SILLY!! I CAN ALREADY SEE THEIR BODIES FLOATING TO THE SURFACE!!
LOOK! YOU CAN CHARGE ¥5,000 FOR A DIP IN THIS NATURAL ELECTRIC SPRING WATER!
you don't even pay the electric bill!

IT'S NOT EASY... WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I'LL DO ANYTHING!!!
WHETHER OR NOT LONERS LIKE NOEMI OR ME BELONG IN "A CIRCLE OF PEOPLE..."
BURBLE
THOSE BUBBLES... IS THIS ELECTRO-LYSIS...?
COME ON, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THIS EASY. BESIDES, A MIDDLE SCHOOLER, WORKING?
SQUAWK
IT'S NOT EASY!!!!

WE'RE GOING TO TRY OUR HARDEST TO FIND THE ANSWER!!!!
PLEASE HELP ME OUT!!!!!!!!
PLEASE!!! I'LL DO WHATEVER IS WITHIN MY ABILITY!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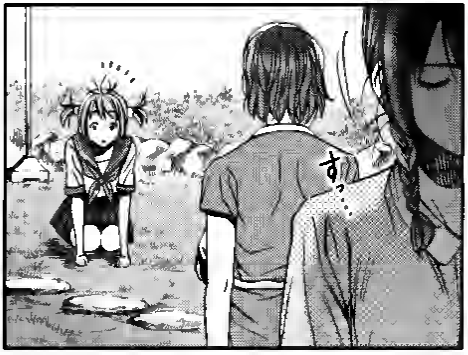
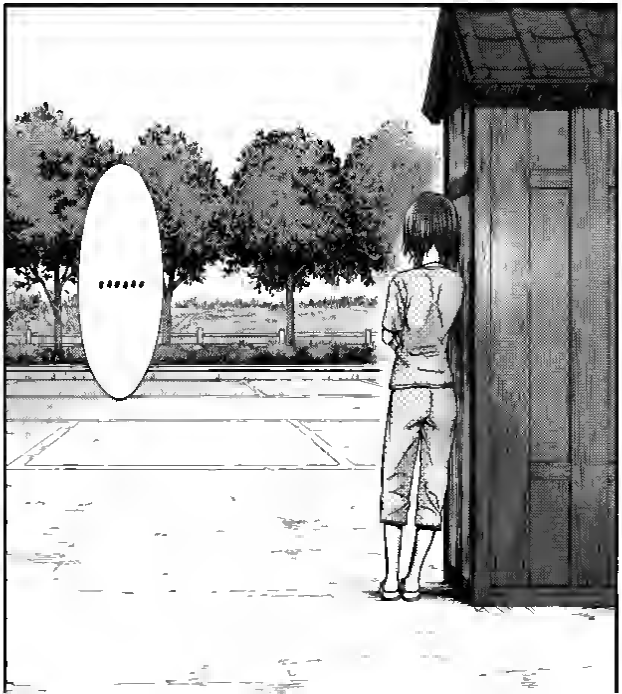
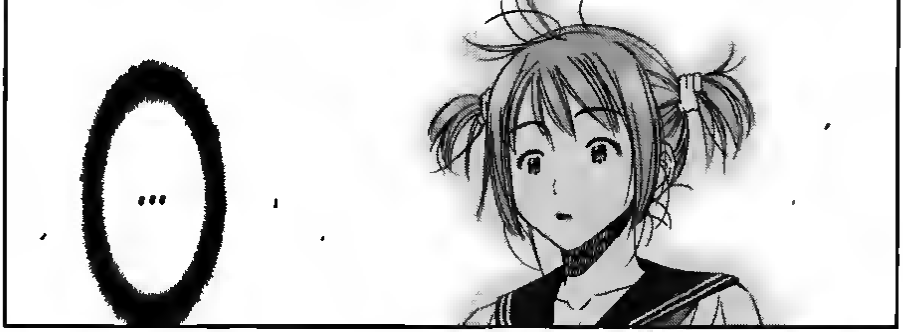

すっ

UM...


.....

...I'M... SORRY...
しゅん...
FOR SHOWING UP LIKE THIS SO SUDDENLY.
YOU MUST BE...IN A BAD MOOD...
S-SOR-
HEY! CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
...
I'LL BE HONEST... THAT WAS A REAL SHOCKER...
IF YOU ENDED UP NOT LIVING WITH US,
WHAT'S... GOING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND KANZO?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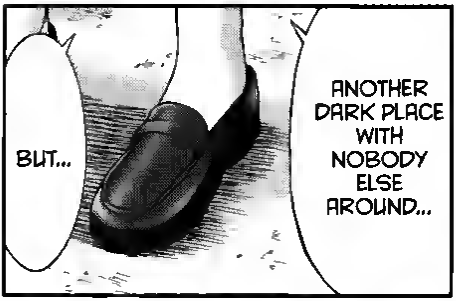

ANOTHER DARK PLACE WITH NOBODY ELSE AROUND...
BUT...

...I DO HAVE ONE PLACE
THAT I COULD GO TO.

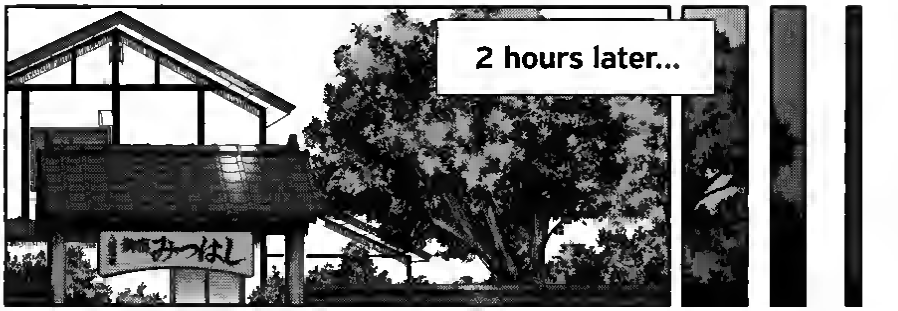
I HAVE KANZO WITH ME...
RIGHT NOW...

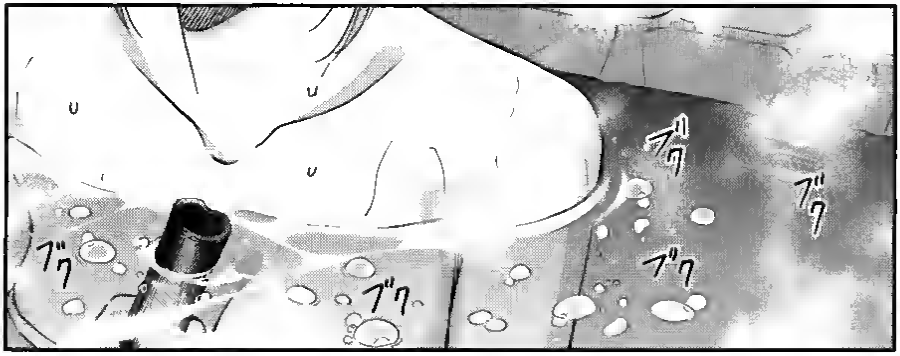
MOOOOM!
ドスドスドス
OH, SHUT UP!
SERIOUSLY, YURIE?!! YOU!! YOU...REALLY, YOU?!!
HURRY UP AND THINK OF WAYS FOR YOU TO MAKE SOME MONEY!!
...??
DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT! WHY DON'T WE LET HER STAY HERE FOR A WHILE? ♪
W-WHAT?! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
ガッ
THIS GIRL IS SUPER INTERESTING ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HER!
For real, man..
WELP, NOEMI'S PRETTY CUTE AND ALL, AND I'M PRETTY CURIOUS. I'M ALL FOR IT. ♡
=PFFT= THOSE CLOWNS.

OH?!
I SWEAR I SAW THIS ON SOME WEBSITE SOMEWHERE.
I FEEL AN IDEA COMING UP, BUT...
STILL... CHARCOAL... ELECTROLYSIS...

I SAW SOMETHING ON THAT ENGINEERING FIRM'S NEWS FEED!!!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN I WAS DOING RESEARCH FOR MY PAPER!!

NOW THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE!!
WHAT, MAKING A DEVICE TO CLONE YOUR SISTER?
HUH?!!
HEY, KANZO!! LEND ME SOME BRUTE FORCE!! I WANNA TRY SOMETHING OUT!!
HEY!! BAMBOO CHARCOAL!! ELECTRICITY!! AND US!! ISN'T IT AWESOME?!


2 hours later...
みつはし


ブク
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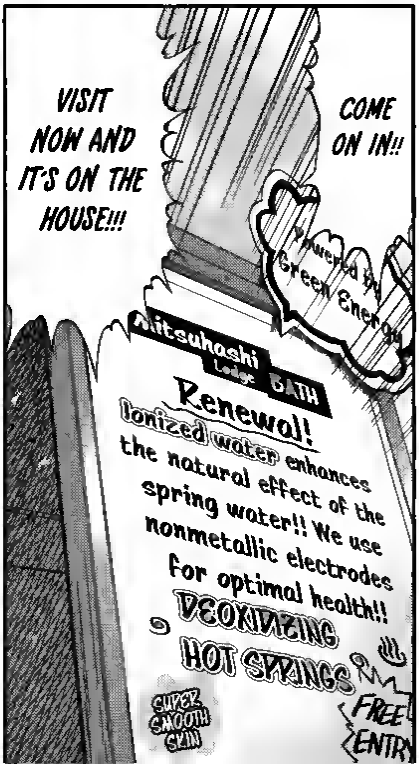
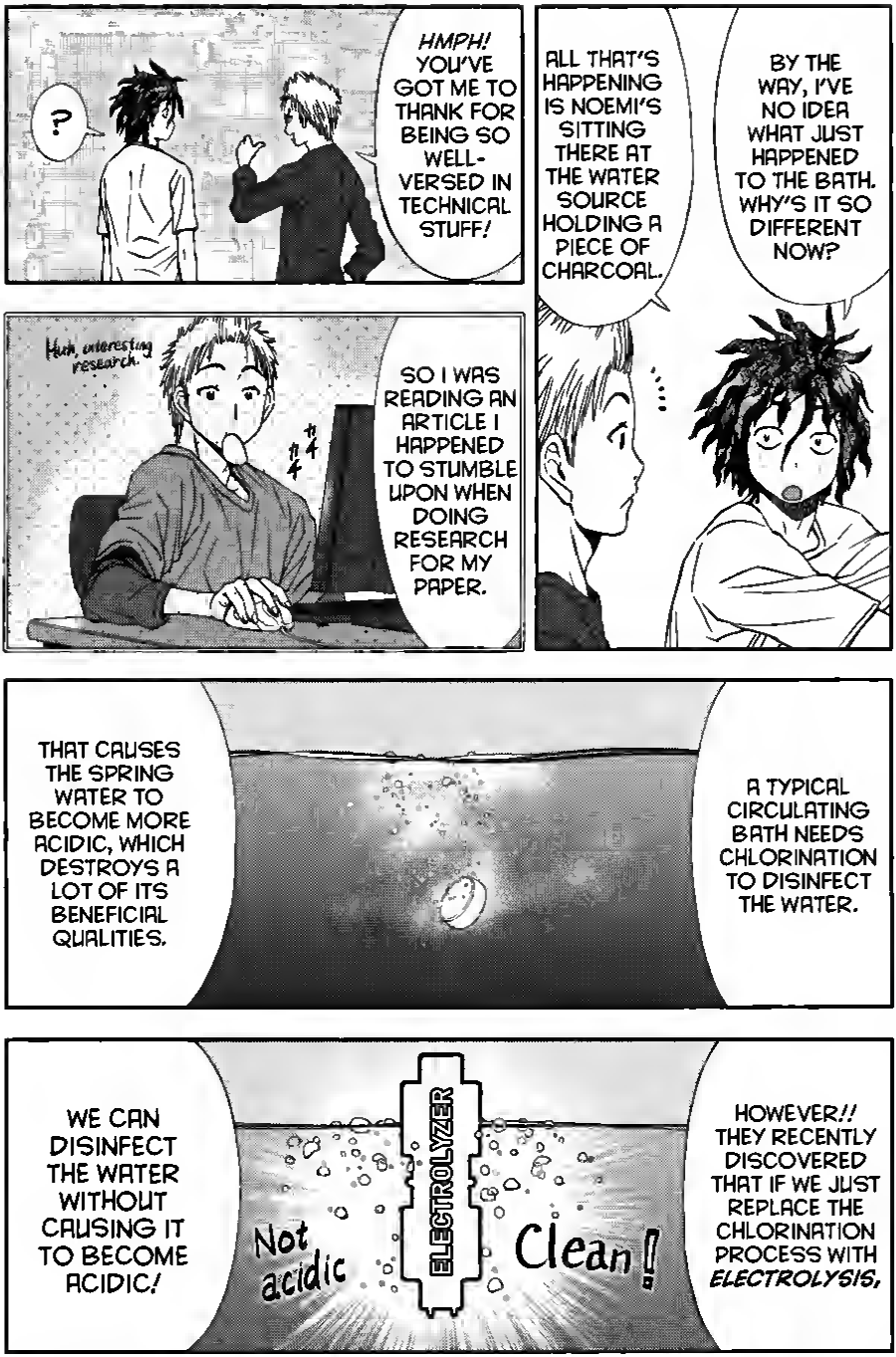
まもイ
"MITSUHASHI LODGE" NATURAL HOT SPRINGS!
WELCOME TO THE NEW AND IMPROVED
ブク
ブク
ブク

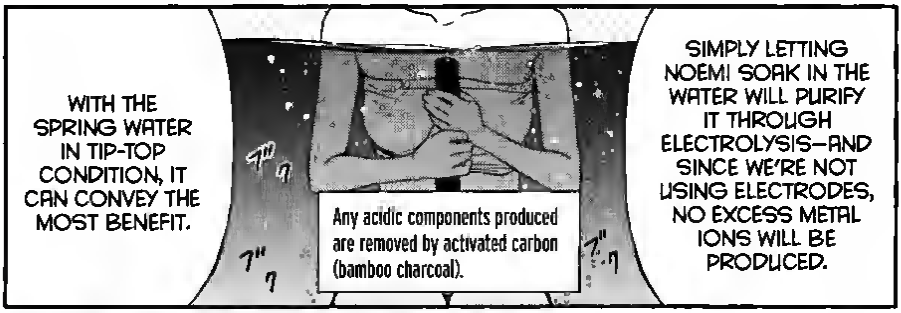

VISIT NOW AND IT'S ON THE HOUSE!!!
COME ON IN!!
Powered by Green Energy
Mitsuhashi Lodge BATH
Renewal!
Ionized water enhances the natural effect of the spring water!! We use nonmetallic electrodes for optimal health!!
DEOXIDIZING HOT SPRINGS
SUPER SMOOTH SKIN
FREE ENTRY

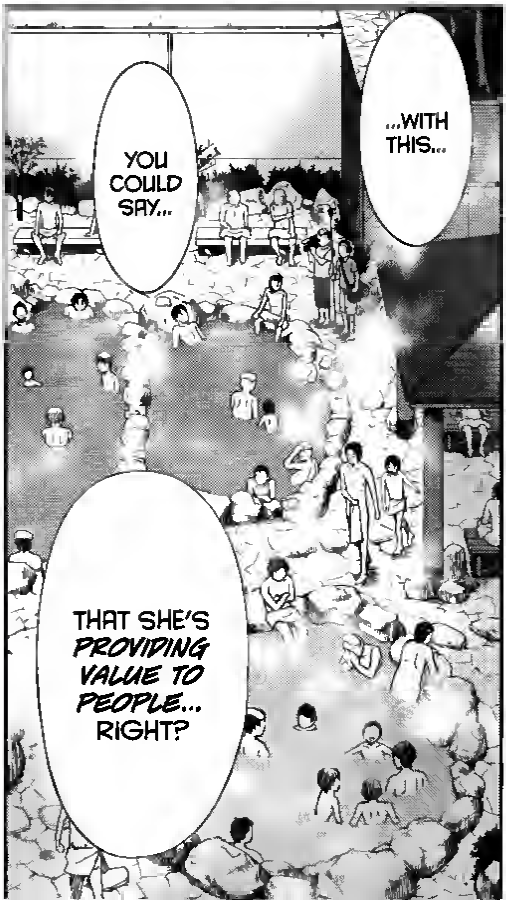
ゴボ ゴボ
ブク ブク
わいわい
Noemi
CHECK IT OUT!!
NO WAY! WHAT'S UP WITH THIS WATER?!
MY SKIN IS SO SMOOTH!!
わあ

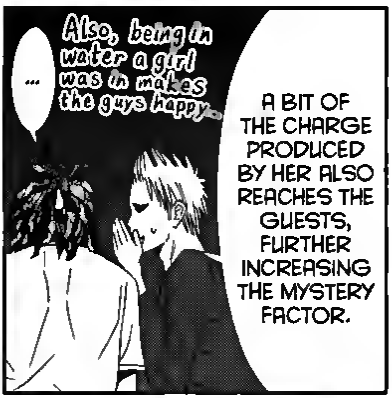
IT FEELS A BIT LIKE AN ELECTRIC BATH.
SOME-THING FEELS A BIT TINGLY.
THIS IS THE BEST HOT SPRING AROUND!
OH MY GOSH! MY SKIN FEELS LIKE I'M 10 YEARS OLD AGAIN!
おおおお
W... WOW!
IONIZED WATER, HUH...
SAYS IT'S GOOD FOR DIABEETUS AND CANCER, TOO.
I KNOW IT'S FREE, BUT IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE TOWN'S HERE...!!
Even the local TV station is here!
HEH! THE FREE PERIOD ONLY LASTS 'TIL THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON. AFTER THAT PASSES, THE REPEAT CUSTOMERS WILL COME IN DROVES!

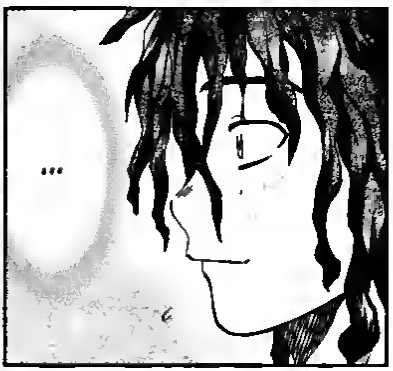

?
HMPH! YOU'VE GOT ME TO THANK FOR BEING SO WELL-VERSED IN TECHNICAL STUFF!
Huh, interesting research.
SO I WAS READING AN ARTICLE I HAPPENED TO STUMBLE UPON WHEN DOING RESEARCH FOR MY PAPER.
ALL THAT'S HAPPENING IS NOEMI'S SITTING THERE AT THE WATER SOURCE HOLDING A PIECE OF CHARCOAL.
BY THE WAY, I'VE NO IDEA WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO THE BATH. WHY'S IT SO DIFFERENT NOW?
THAT CAUSES THE SPRING WATER TO BECOME MORE ACIDIC, WHICH DESTROYS A LOT OF ITS BENEFICIAL QUALITIES.
A TYPICAL CIRCULATING BATH NEEDS CHLORINATION TO DISINFECT THE WATER.
WE CAN DISINFECT THE WATER WITHOUT CAUSING IT TO BECOME ACIDIC!
Not acidic
ELECTROLYZER
Clean!
HOWEVER!! THEY RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT IF WE JUST REPLACE THE CHLORINATION PROCESS WITH ELECTROLYSIS,

That's false.
PRECISELY!! WHADDAYA THINK? PRETTY GENIUS IDEA I CAME UP WITH, HUH?!
ELECTRO-LYSIS...SO THAT'S WHERE NOEMI COMES IN?!


WITH THE SPRING WATER IN TIP-TOP CONDITION, IT CAN CONVEY THE MOST BENEFIT.
Any acidic components produced are removed by activated carbon (bamboo charcoal).
SIMPLY LETTING NOEMI SOAK IN THE WATER WILL PURIFY IT THROUGH ELECTROLYSIS—AND SINCE WE'RE NOT USING ELECTRODES, NO EXCESS METAL IONS WILL BE PRODUCED.

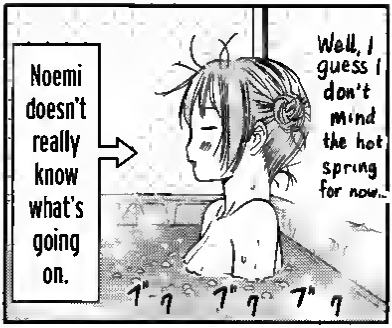

YOU COULD SAY...
...WITH THIS...
THAT SHE'S PROVIDING VALUE TO PEOPLE... RIGHT?


...
Also, being in water a girl was in makes the guys happy...
A BIT OF THE CHARGE PRODUCED BY HER ALSO REACHES THE GUESTS, FURTHER INCREASING THE MYSTERY FACTOR.

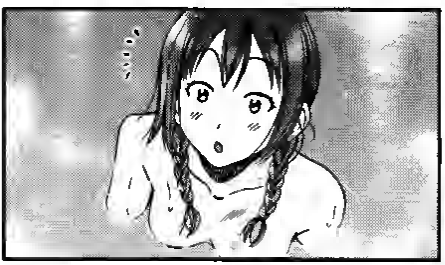

...

YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN.
NO MATTER HOW WEIRD OR USELESS PEOPLE THINK SHE IS,
THERE'S ALWAYS A PLACE SHE CAN FIT INTO.
YOU KNOW, THIS WORLD DOESN'T JUST...
TOSS THINGS ASIDE.

わぁ～
THIS IS GREAT, YURIE!!

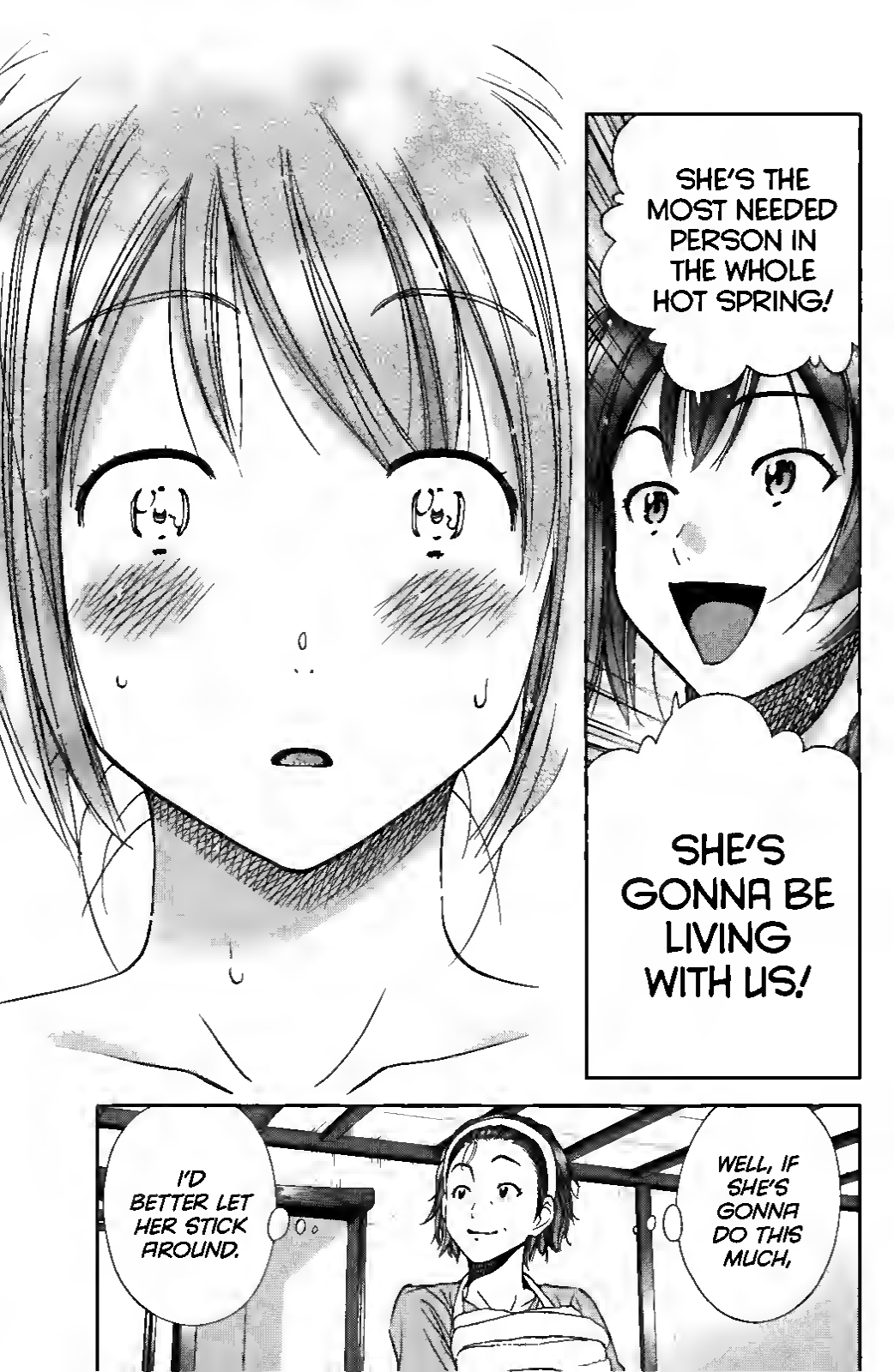

Noemi doesn't really know what's going on.
Well, I guess I don't mind the hot spring for now...
ｱﾞｰ ｱﾞｰ ｱﾞｰ

Yurie's friends...?
...

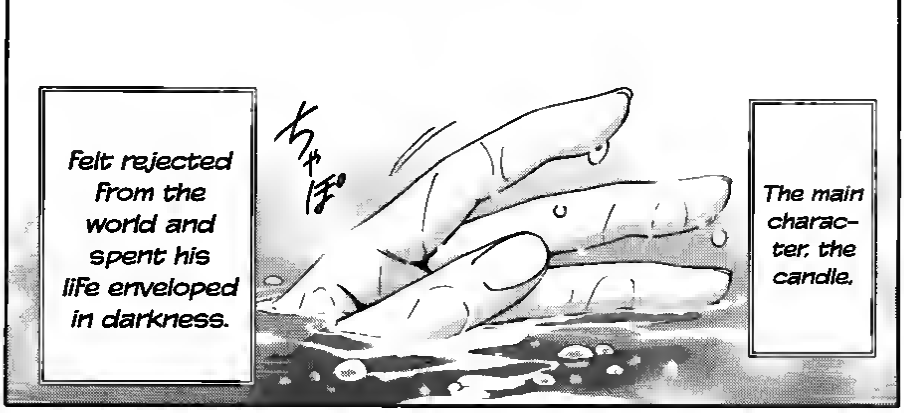

ｼﾝ...

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THAT GIRL UP THERE!
HEY!!
HUH?

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO BE HERE FOR FREE?
MY SKIN IS REALLY TURNING SUPER SMOOTH!
EVERY GIRL IN OUR CLASS IS HERE!
WELL, IT'S JUST FOR NOW. ♡
わい
わい
わい

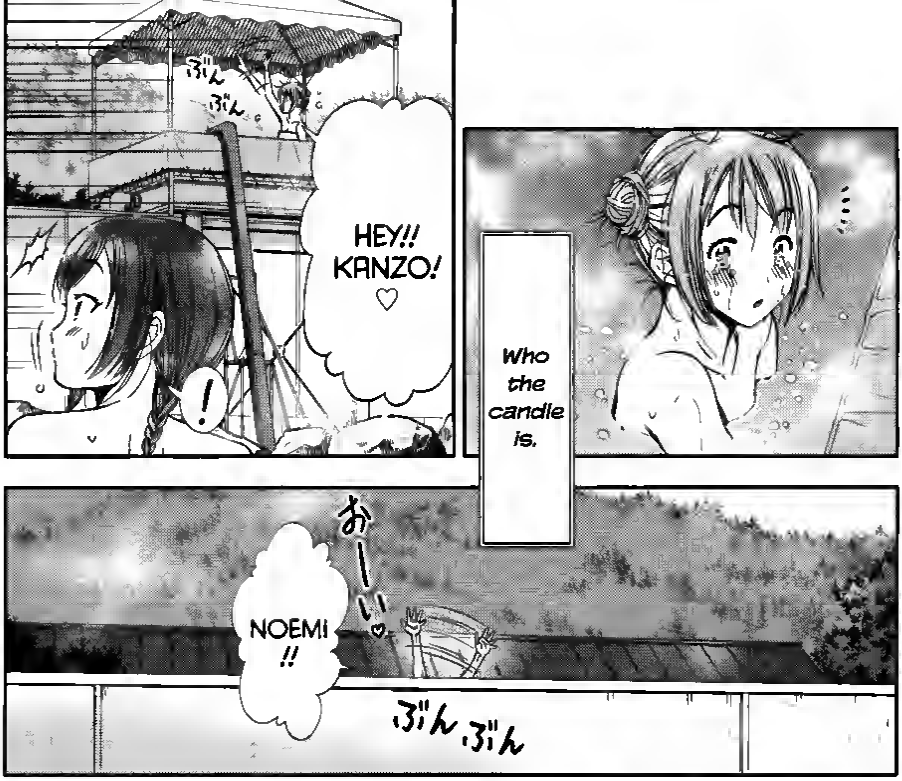

SHE'S THE MOST NEEDED PERSON IN THE WHOLE HOT SPRING!
SHE'S GONNA BE LIVING WITH US!
I'D BETTER LET HER STICK AROUND.
WELL, IF SHE'S GONNA DO THIS MUCH,

ひらひら
...HEY, THERE!
HUH...
HEY, THERE!!
AHAHA!
The story of "The Tallow Candle"
came to mind.


The main character, the candle.
ちゃぽ
Felt rejected from the world and spent his life enveloped in darkness.

But soon, the candle met the tinder-box.

The story describes how it comes to terms with its abilities after being lit on fire for the first time.
H...
... HEY... THERE ...

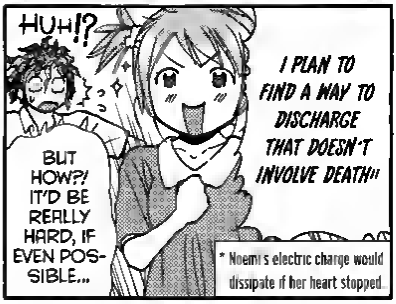

ぶん ぶん
HEY!! KANZO! ♡
!
Who the candle is.
おーい♡
NOEMI !!
ぶん ぶん

and who the tinder-box is...

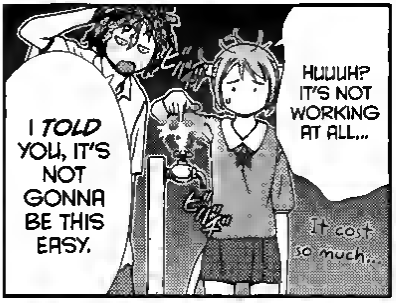
...I have no idea— I'm not part of the cast.

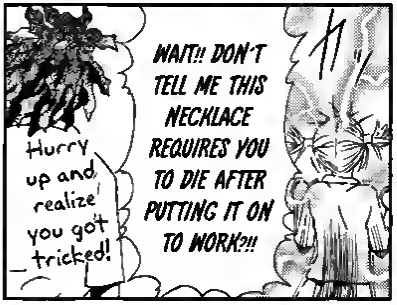
Coulomb Fille Extra Edition 4koma

De-Static Death


HUH!?
I PLAN TO FIND A WAY TO DISCHARGE THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE DEATH!!
BUT HOW?! IT'D BE REALLY HARD, IF EVEN POSSIBLE...
* Noemi's electric charge would dissipate if her heart stopped.

WOW.. NOW THAT IS ONE SUSPICIOUS LOOKING DEVICE.
¥19,800
I ORDERED THIS ONLINE! IT'S A 100% SAFE STATIC ELECTRICITY REMOVAL NECKLACE!!

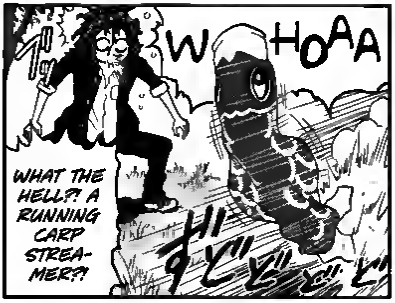


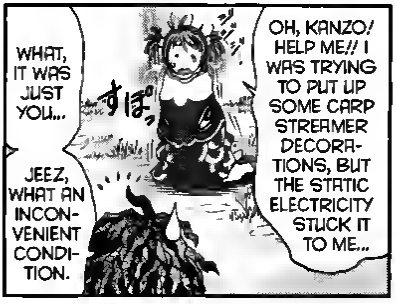


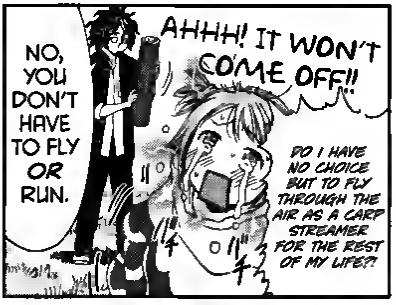
Next year, I plan to not let the motorcycle battery die.

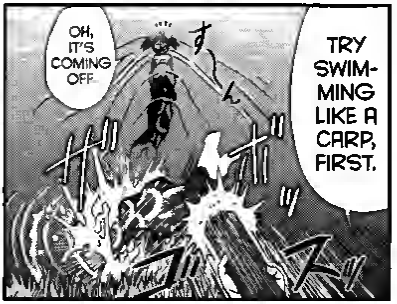
First published in *Magazine SPECIAL* 2014 #1

Electric Carp Streamer




WHAT, IT WAS JUST YOU...
JEEZ, WHAT AN INCONVENIENT CONDITION.
OH, KANZO! HELP ME!! I WAS TRYING TO PUT UP SOME CARP STREAMER DECORATIONS, BUT THE STATIC ELECTRICITY STUCK IT TO ME...


NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLY OR RUN.
AHHH! IT WON'T COME OFF!!
DO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FLY THROUGH THE AIR AS A CARP STREAMER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?!



Clothes stuck on by static electricity come off much easier if you wet them with a spray bottle first!

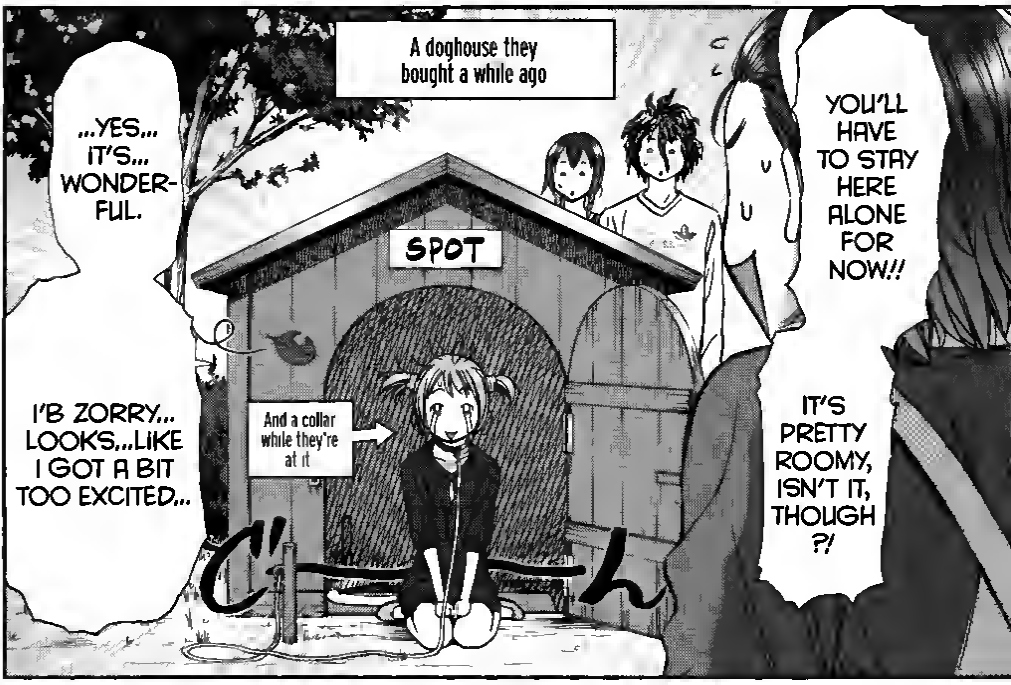
First published in *Magazine SPECIAL* 2013 #5

WOOOO-
OOOOO-
OOOOO-
OW!♡♡
ALRIGHT, THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM, NOEMI!
YIKES.
FSSHH
HUH?
THAT'S WHERE THE GUESTS STAY, SO DON'T GO UP THERE!!
あああ
OH! HOW'S THE SECOND FLOOR DOING?!
WOWEE, THAT STATIC ELECTRICITY REALLY HAS THEM WRAPPED AROUND YOU GOOD.
わさ
わさ
LET ME HELP YOU GATHER THE SHEE...AAH!

LET'S GO CHECK OUT HOW THE BOILER'S DOING!
STOP!!! I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GONNA HAPPEN!!
OH, KAZUTO! DOING RESEARCH? LET ME HELP!
GAHHH! WAIT, I'M NOT WEARING ANY PANTS!!
CAN I OPEN THIS?
AHH !!
OH, CAN I GROW SOME VEGETABLES IN THE EMPTY SPACE BACK HERE?
NO, THAT'S SOME-ONE'S LAND!!
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE UNDER THE BATH AREA?!
THERE'S LOTS OF METAL!! DON'T GO THERE!!
...UM...
THIS GIRL IS... KINDA...

She's like a kitten that's too curious for her own good.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY "ACTIVE..." SHE'S ONE OF *THOSE* GIRLS, HUH...
SEEMS LIKE... BEING USEFUL TO THE HOT SPRINGS MADE HER GO OVERBOARD.
にゃわーん

WE'LL BUILD A DETACHED BUILDING SOON, SO THIS IS JUST FOR NOW... OKAY?!
SOOOORRY, NOEMI!! WITH THE ROOMS WE HAVE NOW, THERE'S REALLY NO PLACE YOU'D FIT IN...


A doghouse they bought a while ago
SPOT
And a collar while they're at it
...YES... IT'S... WONDER-FUL.
I'B ZORRY... LOOKS...LIKE I GOT A BIT TOO EXCITED...
YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE ALONE FOR NOW!!
IT'S PRETTY ROOMY, ISN'T IT, THOUGH ?!

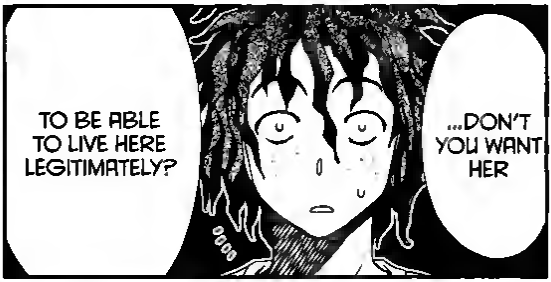
WELL, I DID ASK HER ONCE, BUT SHE STARTED CRYING SO MUCH THAT I COULDN'T KEEP LISTENING...
WHISPER WHISPER
HEY, HOW HAS NOEMI EVEN GOTTEN BY UNTIL NOW?
She really tries to avoid being touched...
She hasn't been alone her WHOLE life, has she?

I'VE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE... I'LL JUST STAY HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...
YYOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR!
...WELL, THEY...
WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, IT REALLY IS HARD TO LET HER STAY WITH US...

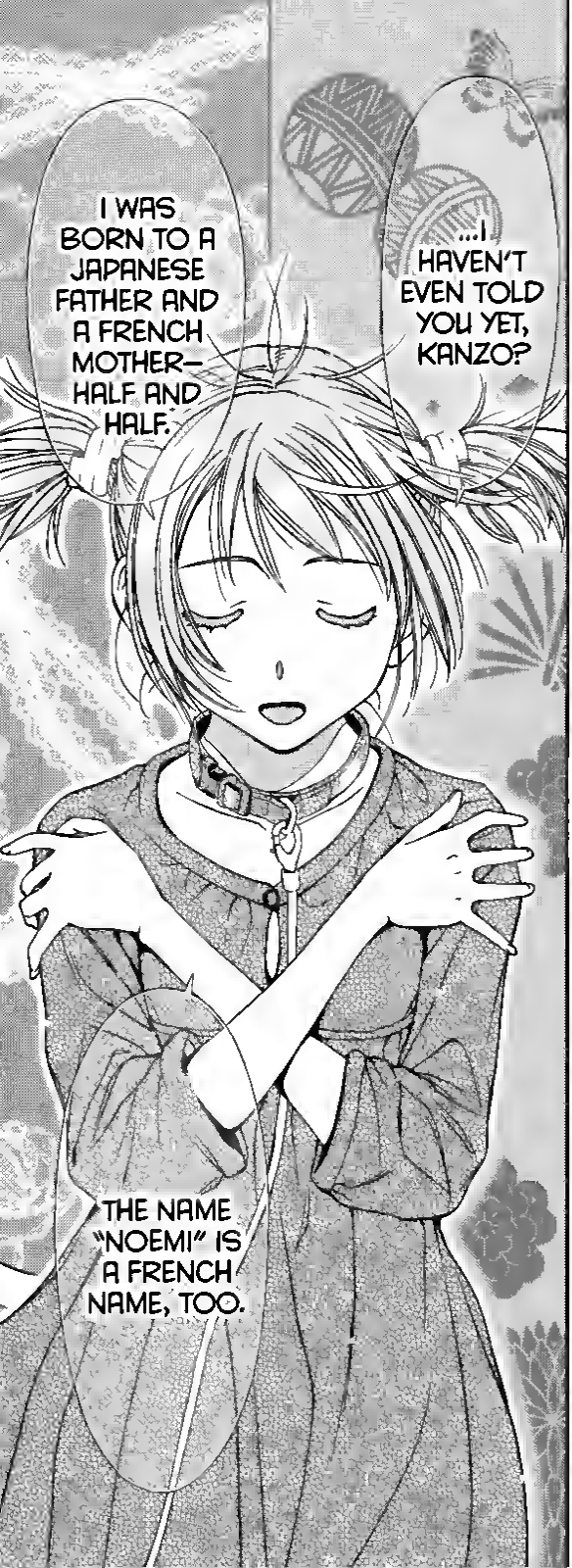
SHE HAS NO DELICACY!
SPOT
OH, ALSO, I'LL NEED A BIT OF INFO LIKE WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND WHAT SORT OF STUFF YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.

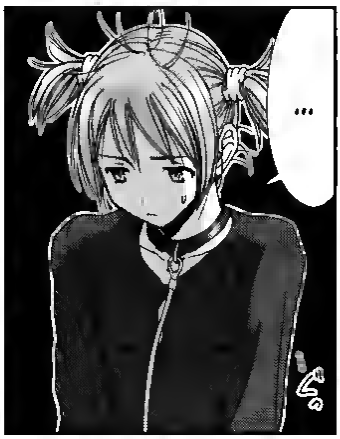
SPOT
...AUNTIE...!
...!!

I'M ONLY ASKING BECAUSE I HAVE TO!!!!
UMMM, AUNTIE? I WAS THINKING MAAAAYBE WE SHOULD APPROACH THIS ISSUE WITH A BIT MORE DELICACY...

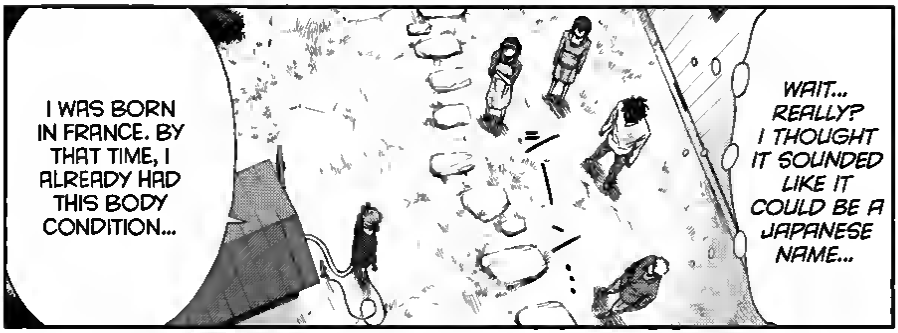

TO BE ABLE TO LIVE HERE LEGITIMATELY?
...DON'T YOU WANT HER

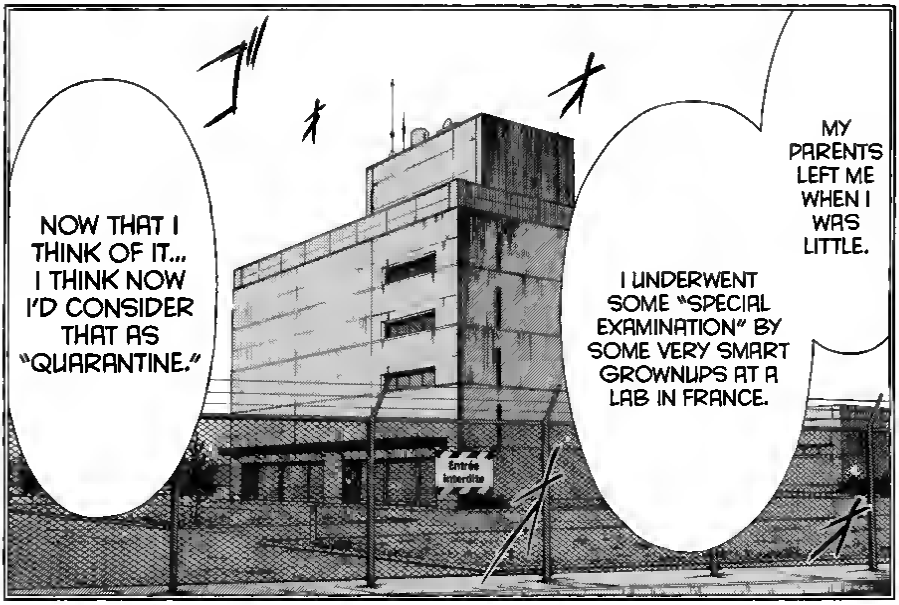
I NEED TO REPORT THIS INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SO I CAN BECOME A LEGAL FOSTER PARENT!


...I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD YOU YET, KANZO?
I WAS BORN TO A JAPANESE FATHER AND A FRENCH MOTHER— HALF AND HALF.
THE NAME "NOEMI" IS A FRENCH NAME, TOO.


...

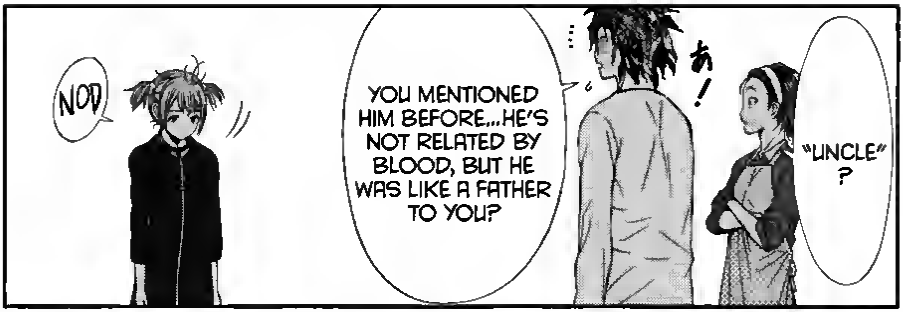
...UM... HAVE I ALREADY MENTIONED THAT I'M STILL A FRENCH CITIZEN...?
WAIT, WHAT?!! I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING OF THE SORT!!! WHERE THE HECK DID THAT COME FROM?!?!


I WAS BORN IN FRANCE. BY THAT TIME, I ALREADY HAD THIS BODY CONDITION...
WAIT... REALLY? I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED LIKE IT COULD BE A JAPANESE NAME...

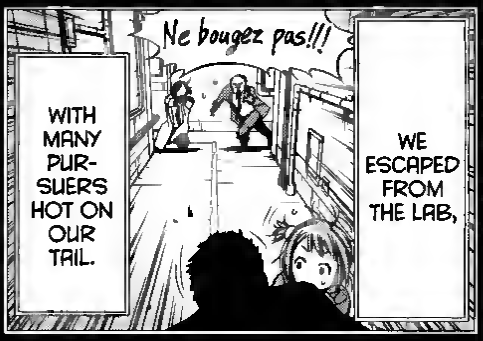

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT... I THINK NOW I'D CONSIDER THAT AS "QUARANTINE."
I UNDERWENT SOME "SPECIAL EXAMINATION" BY SOME VERY SMART GROWNUPS AT A LAB IN FRANCE.
MY PARENTS LEFT ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
Entrée interdite

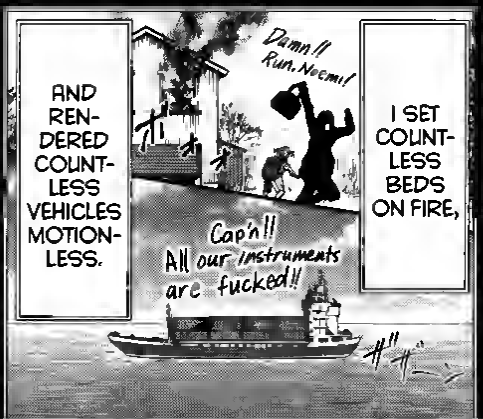
"UNCLE!"
THAT PERSON WHO BROUGHT ME OUT TO THE WORLD WAS...

BUT ONE PERSON TOLD ME... "YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE," AND "YOU HAVE TO GET OUT."


NOD
YOU MENTIONED HIM BEFORE...HE'S NOT RELATED BY BLOOD, BUT HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO YOU?
あ!
"UNCLE"?

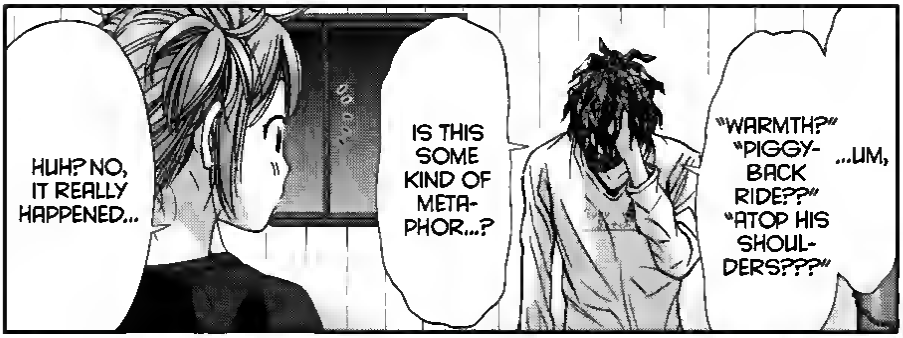
DON'T WANNA. YOUR BREATH STINKS.
He never once succeeded after this.

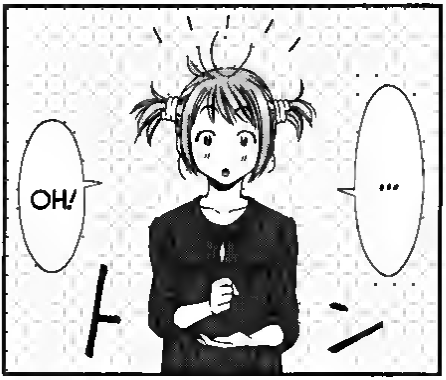

Ne bougez pas!!!
WITH MANY PURSUERS HOT ON OUR TAIL.
WE ESCAPED FROM THE LAB,


Damn!! Run, Noemi!
Cap'n!! All our instruments are fucked!!
AND RENDERED COUNTLESS VEHICLES MOTIONLESS.
I SET COUNTLESS BEDS ON FIRE,

BUT HE WAS...VERY NICE TO ME...
HE WAS ONE OF THOSE SMART GROWN-UPS, TOO.
NOW LET ME GIVE YOU LOOOTS OF MY LOVING KISSES...
I LOVE YOU, NOEMI...YOU'RE SO CUTE. I COULD GIVE YOU EVERYTHING I OWN.

AFTER I TURNED FIVE YEARS OLD,
WE SOME-HOW MADE IT TO JAPAN...
AND FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN AN APARTMENT IN NIIGATA.
...I WAS SO HAP-PY.
OH, THE CITY SIGHTS I COULD SEE FROM ATOP UNCLE'S SHOULDERS.
AND WHEN I WAS SAD, HE WOULD GIVE ME PIGGY-BACK RIDES.
OF COURSE, I STILL COULDN'T GET CLOSE TO ANYBODY ELSE,
BUT,
FOR MY BIRTHDAYS HE GAVE ME CORO AND MUSICAL INSTRU-MENTS...
UNCLE'S WARMTH WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
...HOLD ON A SEC!!

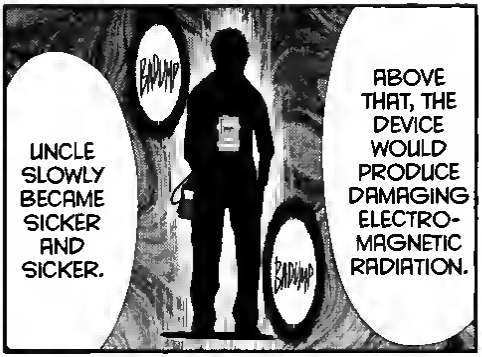

HUH? NO, IT REALLY HAPPENED...
IS THIS SOME KIND OF META-PHOR...?
"WARMTH?" "PIGGY-BACK RIDE??" "ATOP HIS SHOUL-DERS???"
...UM,

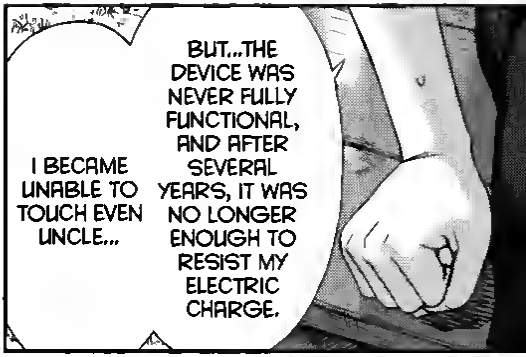

OH!
...

SPEAKING OF THAT, CORO CAN TOUCH ME JUST FINE, TOO.
SQUAWK!
FWIP
WHAT ?!?!
Really?!?!

...SO... EXPLAIN, THEN...WHY YOUR UNCLE...
WAS ABLE TO...TOUCH YOU JUST LIKE THAT ...???
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STATIC ELECTRICITY?!

Current doesn't flow up and around
Power line
Electricity follows the shortest path
WELL...WITH CORO, IT'S JUST LIKE HOW ALL BIRDS CAN STAND ON POWER LINES WITHOUT GETTING ELECTRO-CUTED.
WITH MY UNCLE, HE WANTED TO TOUCH ME SO MUCH.
Electric field neutralizing device
Battery
HE MADE A DEVICE THAT WOULD "NEUTRALIZE ELECTROSTATIC CHARGE..." AND WORE IT ALL THE TIME.
?!!
OH?
ピ～


BADUMP
BADUMP
UNCLE SLOWLY BECAME SICKER AND SICKER.
ABOVE THAT, THE DEVICE WOULD PRODUCE DAMAGING ELECTRO-MAGNETIC RADIATION.


I BECAME UNABLE TO TOUCH EVEN UNCLE...
BUT...THE DEVICE WAS NEVER FULLY FUNCTIONAL, AND AFTER SEVERAL YEARS, IT WAS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO RESIST MY ELECTRIC CHARGE.

HAH
HAH
D...DON'T BE STUPID!! NOEM!!! DON'T YOU DARE CALL 911...!!
HAH
SOON...

T...
TAKE THIS...

SQUAWK
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CALL AND...THE MEDICS WILL MESS AROUND... THE POLICE WILL SHOW UP HERE TOO...IF THAT HAPPENS...
HAH
HAH...
ATEVER HAPPENS TO ME. I'M BEYOND HELP...
B... BUT ...!!!

GO... BEFORE PEOPLE SHOW UP... LEAVE...!!
N... NO...
HAH
HAH
I DON'T WANNA!!! WHY DO I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND?!
WHEN YOU... CAN NO LONGER USE THIS ROOM...
I'VE COME UP WITH... THE NEXT PLACE YOU CAN MOVE ...TO.
IT'S WRITTEN ON HERE...
Hah
HAH
SO WHAT IF YOU'RE HERE?! THE MEDICS WILL BE ELECTROCUTED!! THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE DESTROYED! AND ABOVE ALL...
HAH
Hah
!!!
I told you to GO!!!!

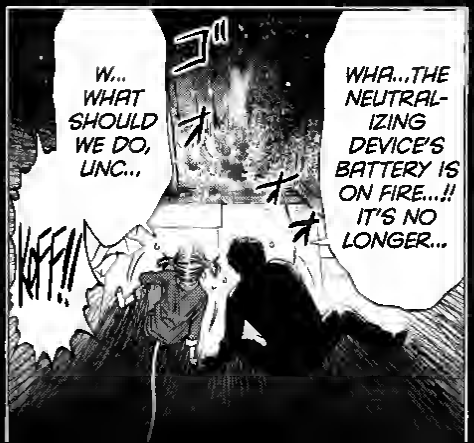
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?! WE'RE ILLEGAL ALIENS IN THIS COUNTRY!!!
IF YOU...DON'T WANT TO BE TAKEN BACK TO THE CONFINEMENT FACILITY IN FRANCE... THEN GO!! YOU HAVE TO GO!!!
.....

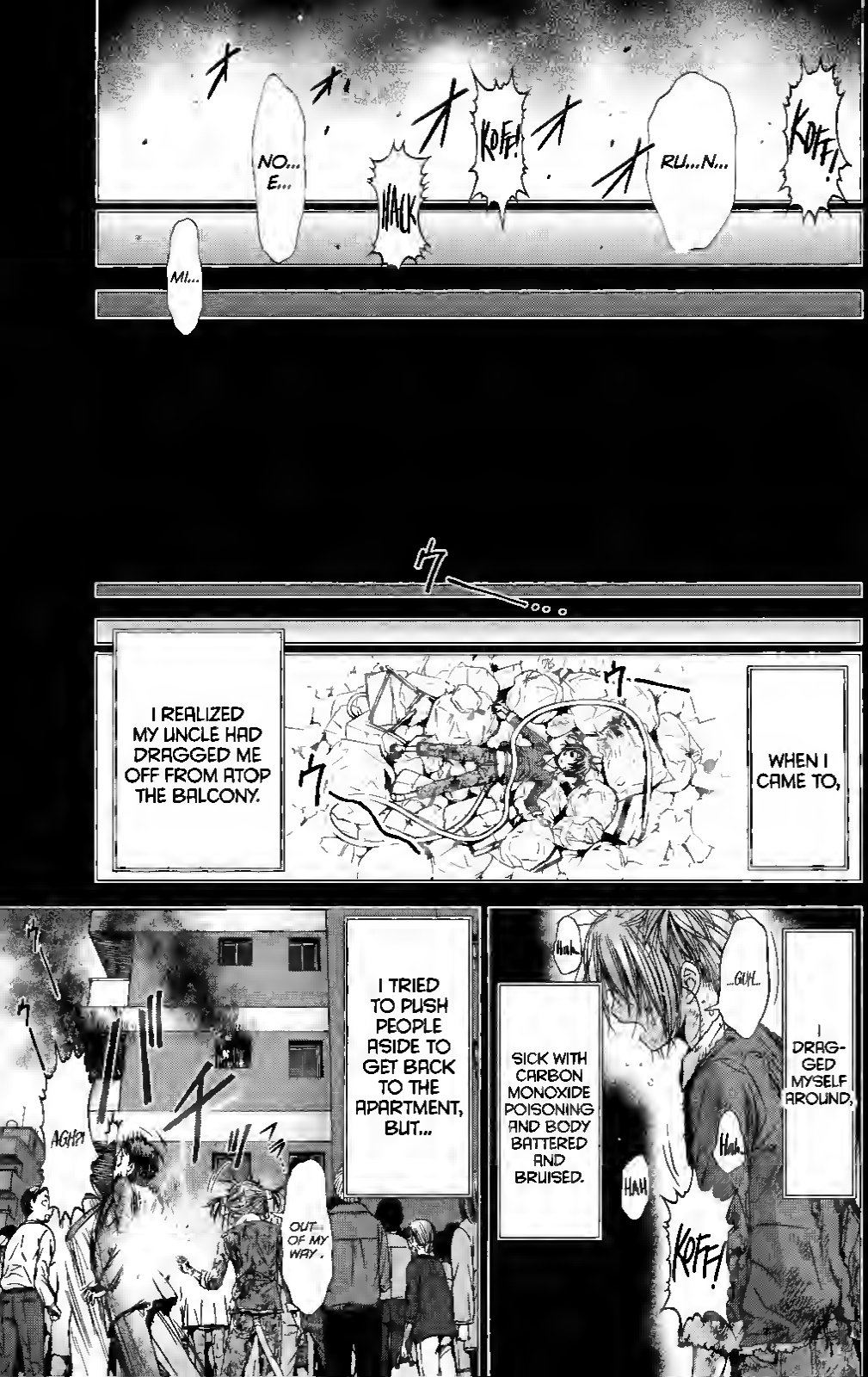
BZHT

NO!!!!
GUH!!!

?!
GRACE

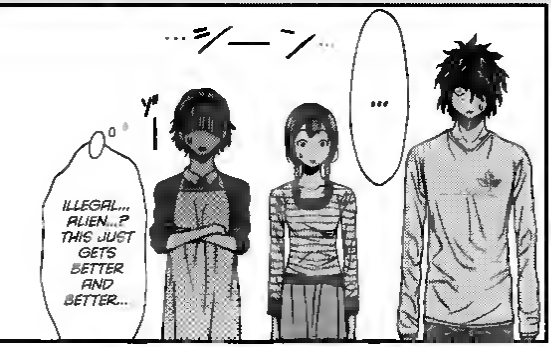
NOEMI!!! ESCAPE BY YOURS... -KOFF- -KOFF-
SQUAWK
S... ELF...
NO... -KOFF-
KOFF!


W... WHAT SHOULD WE DO, UNC...
WHA...THE NEUTRALIZING DEVICE'S BATTERY IS ON FIRE...!! IT'S NO LONGER...
KOFF!!


NO... E...
MI...
HACK
KOFF!
RU...N...
KOFF!
I REALIZED MY UNCLE HAD DRAGGED ME OFF FROM ATOP THE BALCONY.
WHEN I CAME TO,
I TRIED TO PUSH PEOPLE ASIDE TO GET BACK TO THE APARTMENT, BUT...
AGH?
OUT OF MY WAY.
SICK WITH CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AND BODY BATTERED AND BRUISED.
I DRAGGED MYSELF AROUND,
Hah...
...GUH...
Hah...
HAH
KOFF!

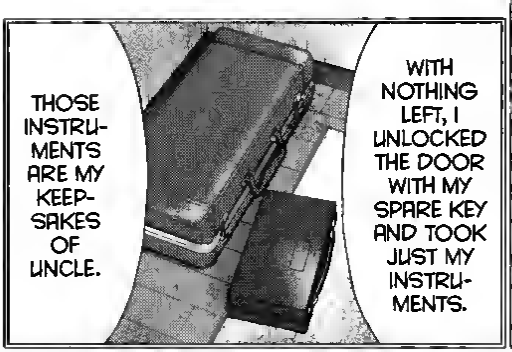
AAAAHHH
HEY, WATCH OUT, PEOPLE!! SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!! THIS KID'S AN ARSONIST, ISN'T SHE?!
...!!
HUH?!
HAH
HAH
HEY!! WHAT'S UP WITH THIS KID?! DOES SHE HAVE A TASER OR SOMETHING?!
AH! SHE'S MAKING A RUN FOR IT!
THE COPS ARE HERE?!
OVER HERE!!
...!!
I RAN FOR DAYS AND DAYS...
SQUAWK
YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE?!
!! CORO!!
FOLLOWING UNCLE'S NOTE,
HAH
HAH
AND WHEN MY TEARS HAD RUN DRY..
HAH
I RAN... AND RAN...
HAH
HAH
AND LIKE THAT,

I MANAGED TO REACH THAT ABANDONED CABIN...
HAH
AT LAST...
HAH
HAH

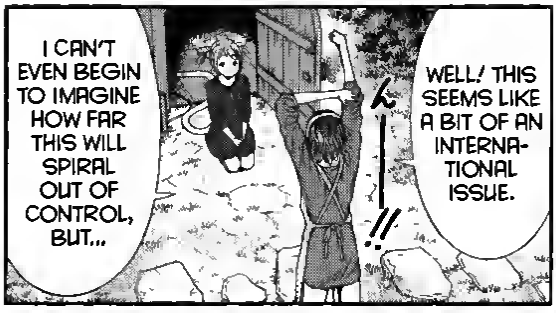

...シーン...
...
ILLEGAL... ALIEN...? THIS JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR UNCLE...?

SNIF
THAT WAS...
EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO TODAY...

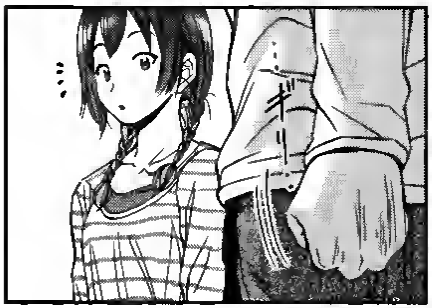

THOSE INSTRUMENTS ARE MY KEEPSAKES OF UNCLE.
WITH NOTHING LEFT, I UNLOCKED THE DOOR WITH MY SPARE KEY AND TOOK JUST MY INSTRUMENTS.

I GOT CURIOUS ONE DAY SO I WENT BACK TO CHECK. I ASKED ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS ABOUT IT.
IT TURNS OUT THAT HE HAD SUFFERED HEART FAILURE AND PASSED AWAY ON THAT DAY.
Why are you staying all the way over there?


I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW FAR THIS WILL SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL, BUT...
WELL! THIS SEEMS LIKE A BIT OF AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE.

...I SEE...
THERE'S A LOT MORE GOING ON THAN I THOUGHT...

MAKES ME THINK MORE AND MORE THAT I HAVE TO MAKE YOU ONE OF MINE!
HEARING YOUR SAD STORY...



...NTIE ...!
... AU...

ZO...?
KAN...
...
YOU SUDDENLY LOOK 10 TIMES GLOOMIER.
-PHEW-
WHAT ARE YOU MOPING AROUND FOR?

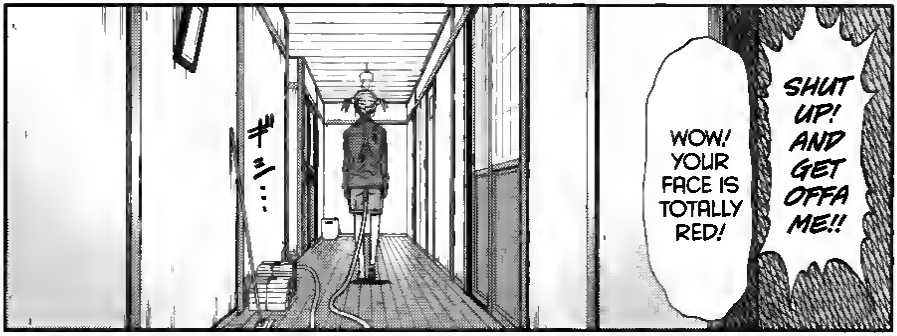
NOEMI'S UNCLE
WAS PRETTY DAMNED AMAZING.
ALL I GOT WAS SOME MOCKERY FOR MY SEAWEED HAIR.
...
I WAS JUST...
THINKING AGAIN ABOUT WHAT A RIDICULOUS LIFE SHE'S HAD SO FAR...
I WAS EMBARRASSED AT MYSELF FOR THINKING I WAS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS HER...
HE SMUGGLED HER OUT OF FRANCE AND PROTECTED HER WITH HIS LIFE...
HE'S LIKE A HERO TO NOEMI.
...WELL, IT WASN'T JUST HIM.
IT WAS ALSO KAZUTO, WHO RE-MODELED THE HOT SPRINGS.
AND IT WAS AUNTIE, WHO DECIDED TO BECOME HER FOSTER PARENT.
NOEMI HAS SO MANY HEROES...
しょぼ...
Salesman? What the hell...
I CAN'T EVEN HOPE TO COMPETE WITH THAT...
...WELL, TO ME,
YOU'RE A HERO, TOO, YOU KNOW...?

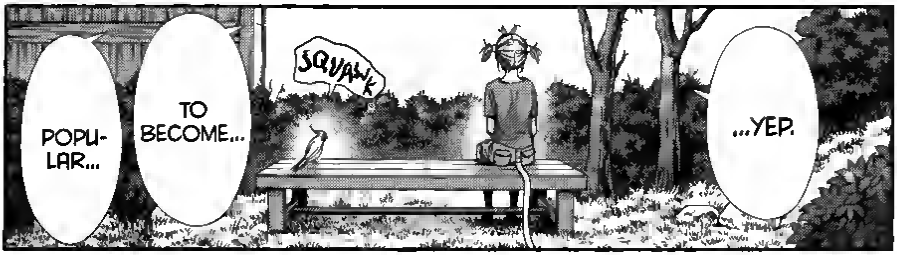
...WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??
あーあ
YOU *REALLY* DON'T REMEMBER A THING, DO YOU!!
9 YEARS AGO, YOU SAVED ME FROM SOME BAD GUY!
...HUH?
WELL, I WON'T BOTHER RETELLING THE STORY IF YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT.
ANY- WAYS!
FOR A LONG TIME,
...*YOU'VE* BEEN *MY* HERO...!!

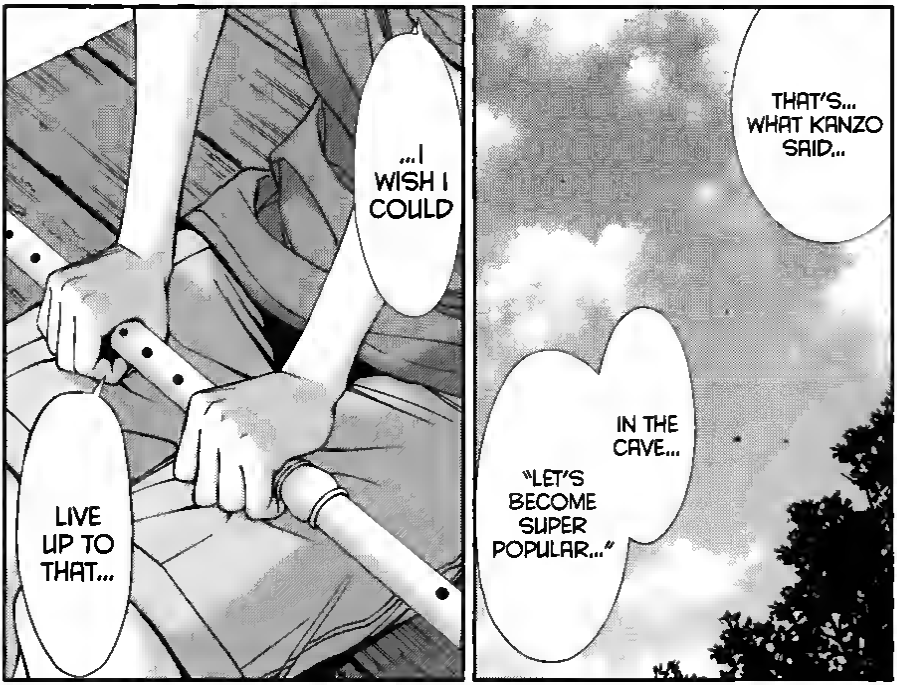
THEN YOU SUDDENLY BROKE INTO THE BATH WITH YOUR SEAWEED HAIR...
THEN, AFTER BREWING UP A STORM, FISTS FLYING, YOU RAN OUT AND NEVER CAME BACK FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT!
...????
BUT!!
I WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN.
...BUT,
I THOUGHT YOU HAD BECOME THE WORST OF THE WORST!
W...WELL, I BELIEVE YOU, BUT... YOU KNOW ME...
I AM THE WORST... AND A FREAK...
すいっ
DEEP INSIDE,
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT.

I KNEW IT WHEN I SAW HOW YOU COULDN'T LEAVE NOEMI ALONE.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY HERE IS...
DON'T BE SO GLOOM AND DOOM AND GO OUT THERE WITH YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH!
WHOA?!
Your chest is on my back!!
...S...
Insulting for Noemi
SORRY, KANZO!
I FORGOT THAT THIS JACKET OF YOURS WAS SYNTHETIC FIBER...
I RAN FOR A BIT AND THE SPARKS RUINED IT...
KANZO, WHERE ARE YOU?

OH, YEAH?
I'M HERE TO BECOME THE MOST POPULAR GUY AROUND! BEING YOUR HERO IS A PIECE OF CAKE!!
...WELL, DUH!
Hey that seriously hurts. Now.
DON'T GO AND CLAIM SOMETHING YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER!!
...
WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THAT CLOSE...
...!...


ギィ…
WOW! YOUR FACE IS TOTALLY RED!
SHUT UP! AND GET OFFA ME!!


SQUAWK
POPU-LAR...
TO BECOME...
...YEP.


...I WISH I COULD
LIVE UP TO THAT...
THAT'S... WHAT KANZO SAID...
IN THE CAVE...
"LET'S BECOME SUPER POPULAR..."

SINCE KANZO...
IS MY BIGGEST HERO...

...I WANT TO TRY MY BEST...
...SOME-ONE CLOSE LIKE YURIE
MIGHT NOT CARE, BUT...

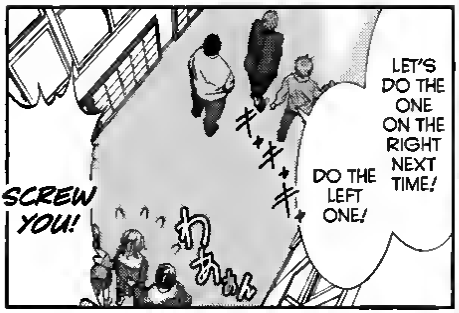
...
JUST LET GO ALREADY!
I DID LET GO!

3 months later...

KO
EEK!
OOH! STRIPES!

HEY!
MOR-NIN'!

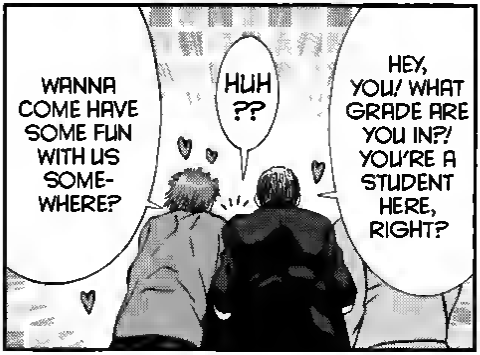
THERE GOES NOVEM-BER, HUH.
BRR! 'S COLD!

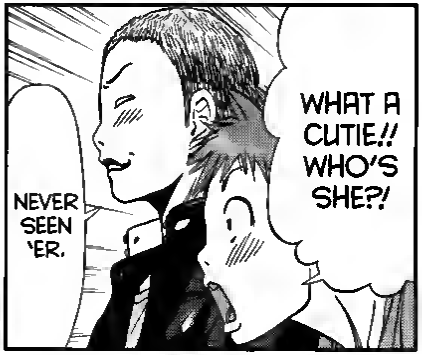

LET'S DO THE ONE ON THE RIGHT NEXT TIME!
DO THE LEFT ONE!
SCREW YOU!

HORRIBLE!! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL FLIPPING SKIRTS IN 8TH GRADE!!
OOH, SCARY!
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT YOU GOT FLIPPED BY THE ISHIZUKA!

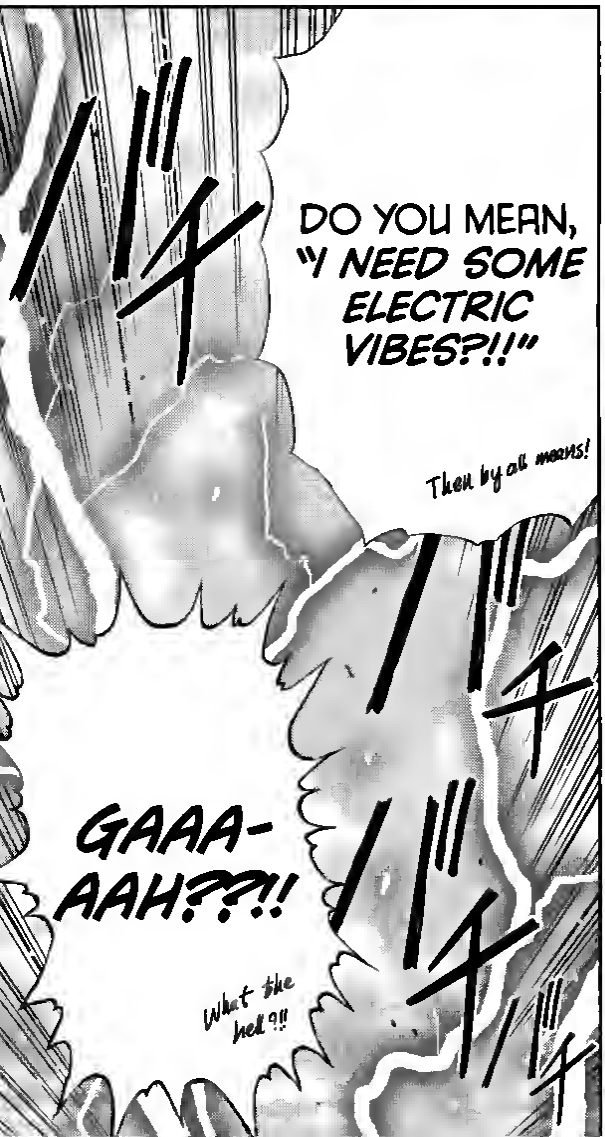
MAN, I'M SO BORED! LET'S SKIP FIRST PERIOD.
CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STILL CRYING IN 8TH GRADE! PFFT
YEAH.
ぞろ ぞろ

OH?
...


WANNA COME HAVE SOME FUN WITH US SOME-WHERE?
HUH ??
HEY, YOU! WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?! YOU'RE A STUDENT HERE, RIGHT?

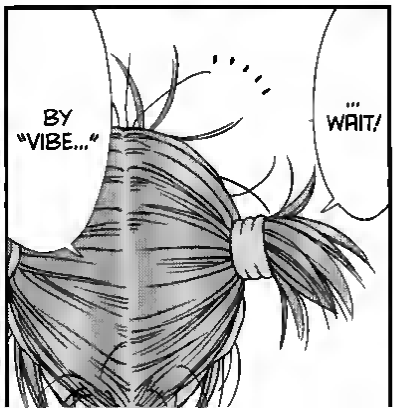

WHAT A CUTIE!! WHO'S SHE?!
NEVER SEEN 'ER.

NAH MATE, THESE KINDS OF CHICK'S ARE ALWAYS HIDING A DIRTY SECRET. I BET SHE HAS FUN WITH A VIBE', IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! ♡♡
YOU LOOK PRETTY INNOCENT SO WE WON'T TEACH YOU ANYTHING *TOO* BAD.
HEEHEE WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

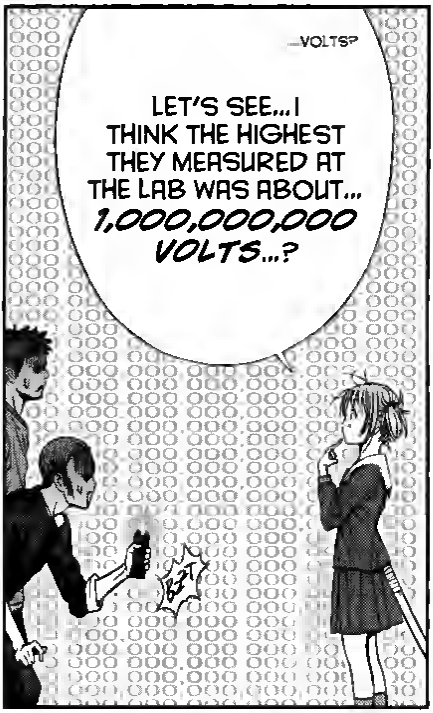

DO YOU MEAN, "I NEED SOME ELECTRIC VIBES?!!"
Then by all means!
GAAA-AAH?!?!
What the hell?!!

? VIBE? WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?! WELL, IF YOU HAVE TO ASK ME..... *EHEH!*

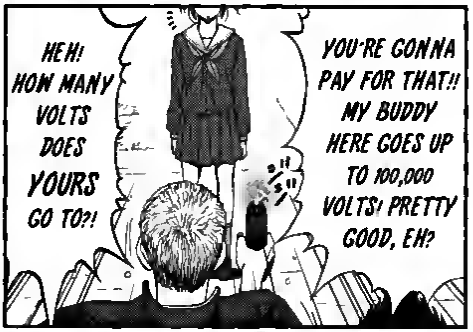
WELL! ANYWAYS, LET'S GO!♪ COME WITH US!
すいっ
WAH! D-DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ME!!


... WAIT!
BY "VIBE..."

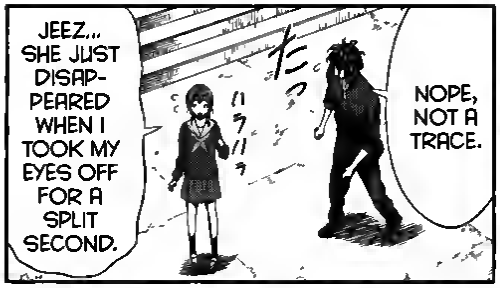
BZZZT
DID SHE JUST HIT US WITH A TASER OR SOME-THING?!
W-W-W-WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!


—VOLTS?
LET'S SEE... I THINK THE HIGHEST THEY MEASURED AT THE LAB WAS ABOUT... 1,000,000,000 VOLTS...?

OOH! ♪ NICE ONE, ISHI!☆
YOU DON'T FUCK WITH ME!! IF IT'S A TASER YOU WANT, I GOT ONE, TOO!


HEH! HOW MANY VOLTS DOES YOURS GO TO?!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT!! MY BUDDY HERE GOES UP TO 100,000 VOLTS! PRETTY GOOD, EH?

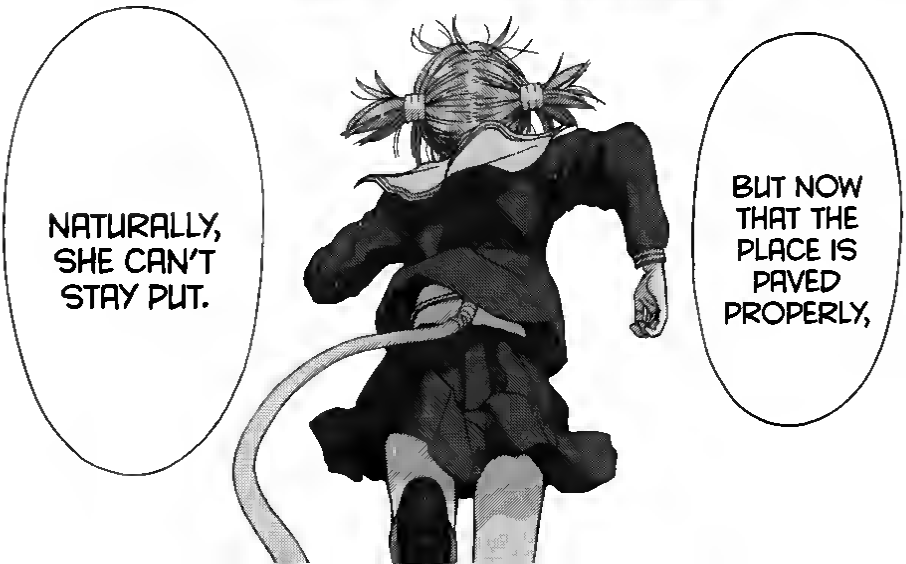
N-N-NO, thank you!
GAH!!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!
LET'S SHARE THE ELECTRIC VIBES!!


JEEZ... SHE JUST DISAP-PEARED WHEN I TOOK MY EYES OFF FOR A SPLIT SECOND.
NOPE, NOT A TRACE.

KANZO, DID YOU FIND HER?!
HAH

MY MOM EVEN KEPT REMINDING ME NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF HER.
PHEW
...

BEFORE, SHE LIVED IN A PLACE WHERE THE GROUND WAS ALL MUDDY...YOU COULDN'T SEE VERY FAR AND IT WAS EASY TO GET LOST.
HUH?
YEESH. I THINK I'VE FINALLY STARTED TO UNDERSTAND HER LATELY.


NATURALLY, SHE CAN'T STAY PUT.
BUT NOW THAT THE PLACE IS PAVED PROPERLY,

And kids are harmless.
WELL, SHE *IS* IN A PRETTY ABNORMAL SITUATION.
WELL, SHE'S AN ILLEGAL NOW, BUT MAYBE IF THEY KNEW HER DAD WAS JAPANESE, THEY'D LET HER LIVE HERE...
School starts in the afternoon
...I WONDER IF SHE'S BEHAVING PROPERLY.
I'VE DONE MY PART.
IT WAS HARD, BUT I DID FINALLY AGREE TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENT.
IT WASN'T WITHOUT CONDITIONS, BUT WE GOT PERMISSION FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
ON ENJOYING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE!♪
WE CAN'T LET HER MISS OUT

I'm starting out at this school.
Noemi Hokari, 14 years old.
And I'm aiming to become
super popular ...!!

☆ An electric girl's secrets ☆

Hello! It's been a while since I last wrote in volume 1, but here I am again! Last time, I talked about how my body is strangely attractive to electrostatic charge. Afterwards, some investigation showed that there's some sort of "particles" flowing in my blood stream, which seem to discharge at regular time intervals due to my heartbeat. The discharged electricity flows to every corner of my body, showing up as static electricity. So when I'm physically active or get excited, my heart rate goes up, and along with that, the charge in my body...

Kazuto seems to be super intrigued by this. He only ever used it to clean the hot springs, but he thinks that with some research, it could totally disrupt the global energy situation. ...well, I'm not that excited to disrupt anything, and I just want to be rid of this condition as soon as possible.

Now that I think back on it, though, when I was in that facility in France, whenever the grownups would look at me, they would get Euro signs in their eyes (it felt like that, anyways). The only one who showed any real compassion for me was Uncle...

Sigh, that's pretty depressing. Let's talk about seaweed! Lately, I get really excited whenever I see seaweed. I don't think I need to tell you why ❤

Oh, by the way, there was seaweed in my hometown. They farm seaweed in France, too. It seems pretty rare outside of Asia. Hehehe!

Well, I hope we meet again somewhere, some day! Au plaisir de vous revoir ❤

Coulomb Fille

Morning assembly
AHEM.
W W-W-WELL, EVERY-ONE,
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW STUDENT...

A...ACTUALLY, SHE HAS A PRETTY UNIQUE PHYSICAL CONDITION, SO...
A-AT ANY RATE, SHE ISN'T ABLE TO APPEAR IN FRONT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO SHE WILL BE GREETING YOU THROUGH THE INTERCOM.
COULOMB 12
A MOUNTAIN STORM'S FEELINGS.

Nice to meet you!
THE PRINCIPAL SEEMS REALLY HIGH-STRUNG TODAY.
WON-DER WHY.

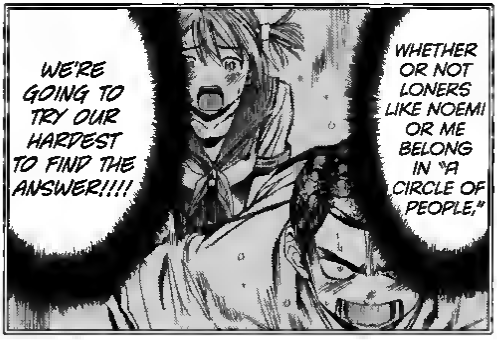
Yeesh, what a handful...
I'M JUST GLAD SHE HASN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH ANY PEOPLE EXCEPT TEACHERS...
W... WELL, WE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET NOEMI TO HER SPECIAL ROOM WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...

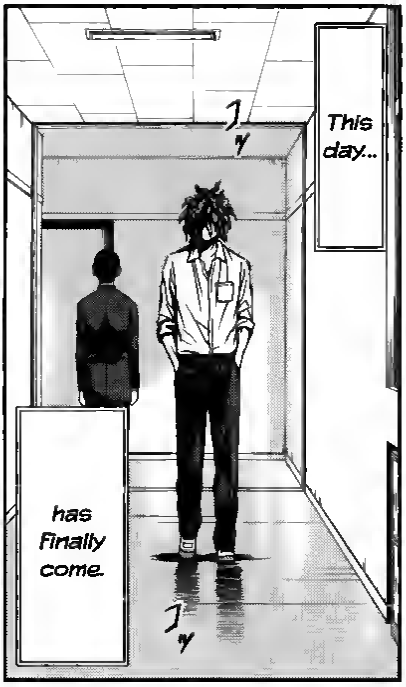
PFF
THERE SHE IS!!!!
Ichizuka's gang developed a new reflex
HEY, NOEMI!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?! GET BACH TO YOUR ROOM!!!
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!! WEREN'T YOU TOLD NOT TO LEAVE YOUR SPECIAL ROOM?!!
S... Stay away!!!
わき
わき
OH, KANZO!!!
THE MICROPHONE YOU HOOKED UP FOR ME BROKE PRETTY QUICKLY...
I-I'M SORRY!
YEEK ???!!
MY NAME IS NOEMI HOKARI!!!
HELLO. EVERYONE!! TODAY IS MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL!

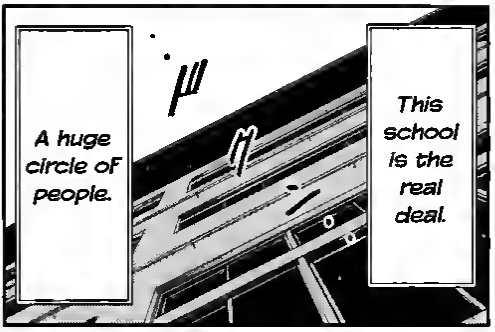
B-BUT IF I DON'T AT LEAST INTRODUCE MYSELF, WON'T THEY BE KINDA SUSPICIOUS OF ME?
YOU *ARE* SUSPICIOUS, AND THAT'S WHY NO AMOUNT OF GREETING WILL MAKE THINGS BETTER!!
...HUH?
ISN'T SHE...
THAT "NOEMI" GIRL AT YURIE'S FAMILY'S HOT SPRINGS?
WOW!! YOU'RE RIGHT!! IT'S NOEMI FROM THE HOT SPRINGS!
わあ
あ
SO *SHE* WAS THE NEW STUDENT?!
Yay, Noemi! How are ya?!
Whoa...
...!!
...WOW, WHAT A CUTIE...
おおおお
YEAH... I THINK THIS IS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...
U...UMM!! UHHH...!!! I, UHH...!!!
むぎゅぅぅっ

SHE'S GOOD!
MY HOBBY AND BIGGEST SKILL IS PLAYING MUSIC!!
OH! I'M GOOD AT SURVIVING IN THE WILD, TOO!!
Survi...?
I ALSO GROW VEGETABLES AND MAKE CRAPPY WOOD CARVINGS.
I'M
TRYING HARD TO BECOME POPULAR!
ねはは
パチ パチ
パチ
パチ
パチ
I REALLY HOPE WE CAN ALL GET ALONG!!!
!?

.....


WE'RE GOING TO TRY OUR HARDEST TO FIND THE ANSWER!!!!
WHETHER OR NOT LONERS LIKE NOEMI OR ME BELONG IN "A CIRCLE OF PEOPLE,"


This day...
has finally come.


A huge circle of people.
This school is the real deal.

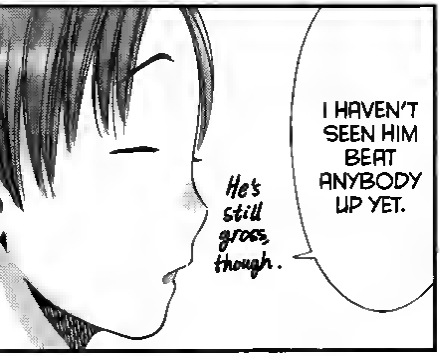
!
WHOA?!
I'm responsible for figuring out how to make the people here accept her.
I'm the one who brought Noemi here.

I also won over the teachers through "rights" and "duties."
...I have a plan.

!
Y-- YEAH... MY BAD.
ARE YOU OKAY?

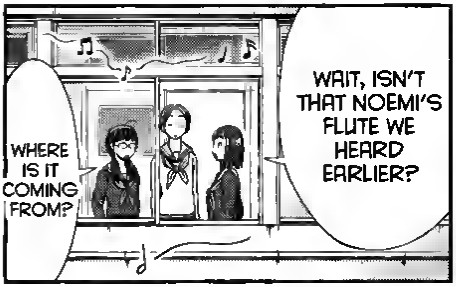
As long as I can make them understand...
.....
what? gross...
Hey, there... How many volts can you withstand?
ぎゃうううう
All that's left is the students...

WELL,
I GUESS IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FALSE RUMOR...


I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEAT ANYBODY UP YET.
He's still gross, though.

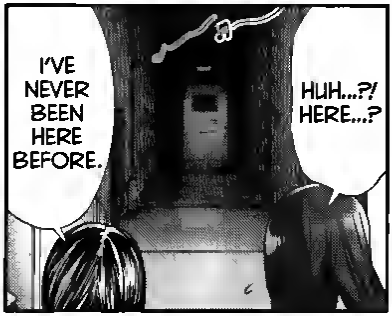
...HEY.
...DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT SEAWEED GUY WAS SOME KIND OF TROUBLE KID?

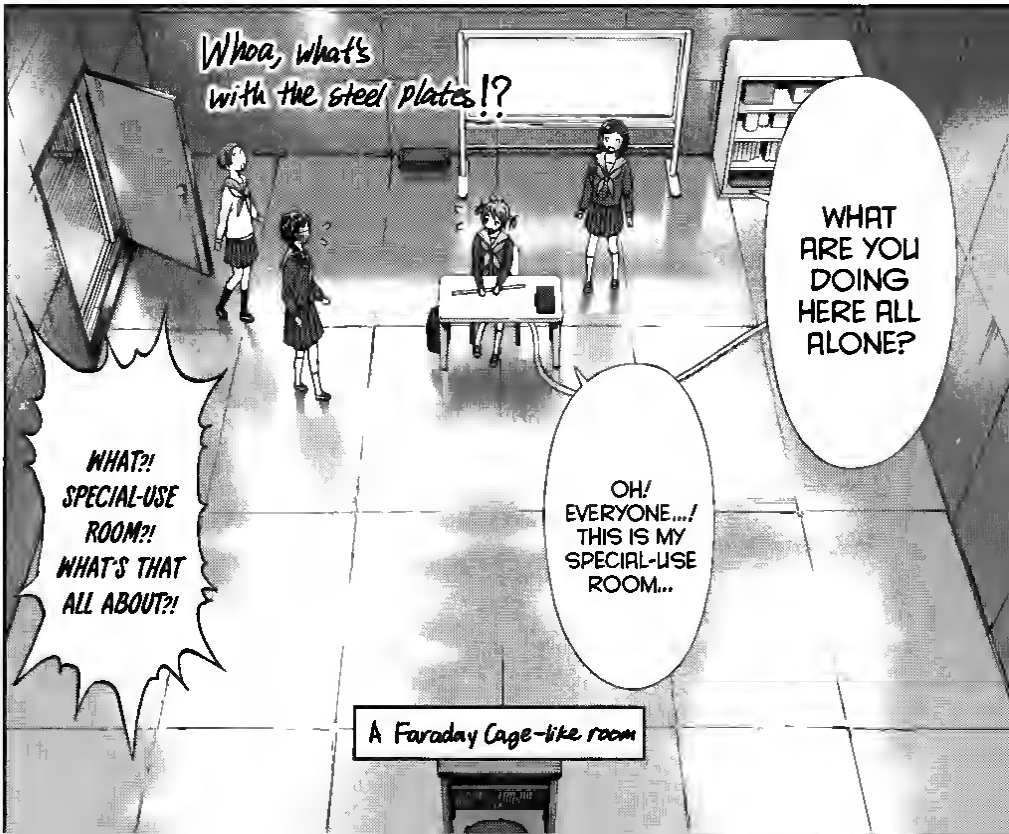
...


WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
WAIT, ISN'T THAT NOEMI'S FLUTE WE HEARD EARLIER?

THEY *BOTH* SEEM LIKE NICE PEOPLE...

OH! NOEMI!


I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.
HUH...?! HERE...?

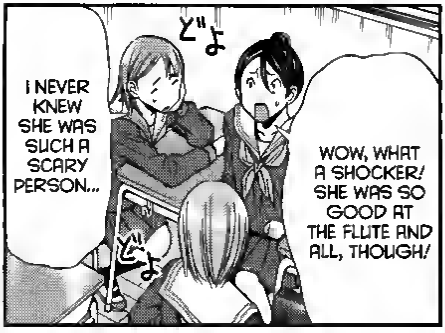

Whoa, what's with the steel plates!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALL ALONE?
OH! EVERYONE...! THIS IS MY SPECIAL-USE ROOM...
WHAT?! SPECIAL-USE ROOM?! WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?!
A Faraday Cage-like room

OH, I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THIS CABLE DURING THE MORNING ASSEMBLY. WHAT IS IT?
す…
YURIE HASN'T EXPLAINED ANYTHING, EITHER, EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID SHE WOULD...
YOU'RE FULL OF MYSTERIES, AREN'T YOU, NOEMI?
す!
TOO CLOSE
AH!!!
N...
NO !!!!
EEK !!?

W... WAKAI ...?!!
...!!
ヒ〃
ヒ〃
ヒ〃
ヒ〃
...
OWW!
W...
WHAT... JUST HAP-PENED?!
I HEARD A CRACK AND THEN THERE WAS A LIGHT...
AND...I FELT A SHOCKING FEELING ALL THE WAY UP MY ARM WHEN YOU GRABBED MY WRIST...??
AND WE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO GET OFF TO A SMOOTH START...
...
JEEZ
...
I'M SORRY !!!!
I...

3-A
I...
1 hour later...

SO THAT MEANS WE CAN'T TOUCH HER AT ALL?!
SHE ELECTROCUTES OTHER PEOPLE... THAT'S SO DANGEROUS!


I NEVER KNEW SHE WAS SUCH A SCARY PERSON...
WOW, WHAT A SHOCKER! SHE WAS SO GOOD AT THE FLUTE AND ALL, THOUGH!

S-SHE'S NOT SCARY AT ALL!!!

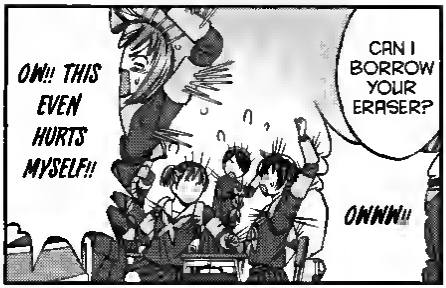
I CAN'T...
BE-LIEVE IT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A...SUPER-EXTREME ACUTE ELECTROSTATIC BODY CONDITION...???

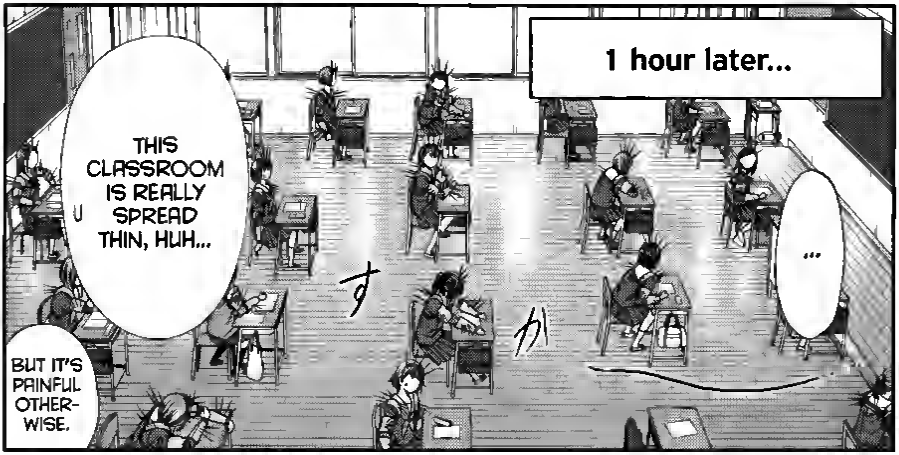
NOW I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEANT BY "WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ELECTRO-LYSIS?"
YURIE... AT LEAST SHE ADDS VALUE TO YOUR HOT SPRINGS...
WHAT ...?!
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET SHOCKED, THAT'S ALL!!
I'M LIVING WITH HER AND I'M JUST FINE, AREN'T I?!
THERE'S NOOO WAY WE'LL GET ALONG WITH HER...
WHAT IF THERE'S AN ACCIDENT?
I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S COVERED WITH ELECTRICITY ALL THE TIME AT SCHOOL, IS IT?
DON'T SAY THAT!!! CAN'T YOU LOOK AT IT FROM HER POINT OF VIEW?!!!
Well?!
NOOO-OOOO, NO NO NO!!!!

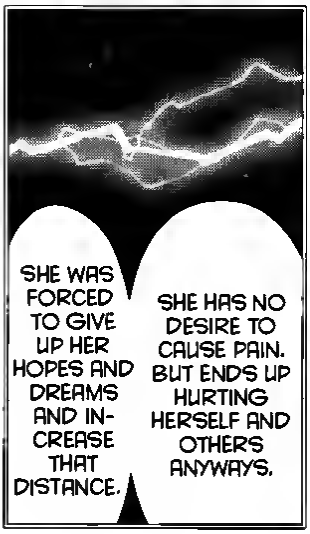
AAAAAAAAHHH
!?
Y-YEAH!! IT'S SUCH A WEIRD CONDI...
WHAT?! NO WAY, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT!
A-A-ALRIGHT, FINE!! I WON'T CHANGE THE TONER CARTRIDGE IN FRONT OF YOU AGAIN, SO COME BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOM!!!
HELP!!! I JUST SERIOUSLY DON'T LIKE LASER PRINTER TONER!!!
IT'S MY SECRET WEAPON.
BEAR WITH ME FOR A BIT.
ピー
HOW DO YOU EXPECT US TO UNDERSTAND SUCH A FREAKY PERSON?!!!!
Calm down!!! Watch out for the electronic equipment!!
...ALRIGHT! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, THEN!!
...HUH?

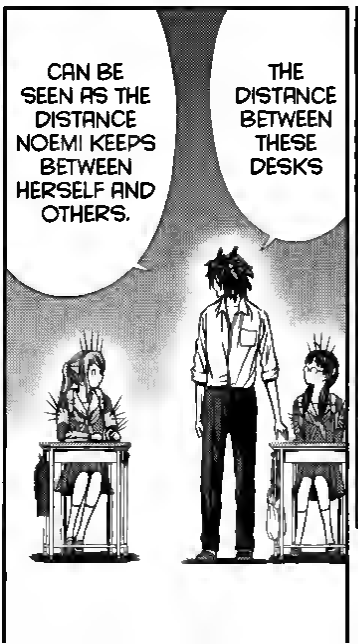
30 minutes later...
WHA...
...!
HEY— WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!!
KAZUTO HELPED ME MAKE THESE LAST WEEK.
NOW EVERYONE CAN ATTEND CLASS WITH THESE BAMBOO SKEWER PINCUSHIONS!
THE TEACHER AGREED TO IT, TOO
OH! SORRY.
OW!! W-WATCH IT, YUMI!!!
H-hold on. You can't be serious!
WHAT-EVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT.
OKAY, I'M PASSING OUT THE PRINT-OUTS FOR CLASS, NOW!

WATCH OUT AROUND YOURSELVES MORE!
Why did I get it, too—?
H-HOLD ON, GUYS, LET'S SPREAD OUT A BIT MORE!!


CAN I BORROW YOUR ERASER?
ONNW!!
ON!! THIS EVEN HURTS MYSELF!!

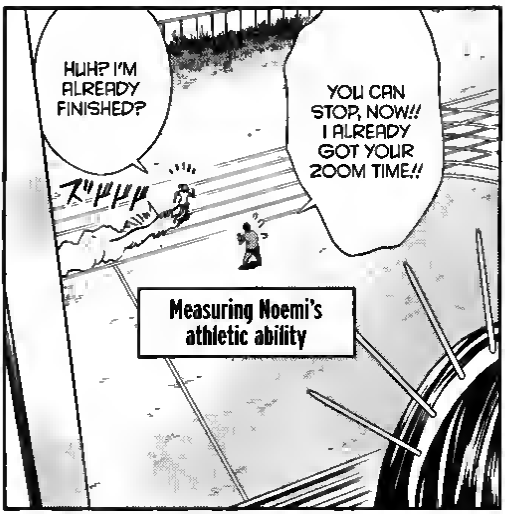

1 hour later...
THIS CLASSROOM IS REALLY SPREAD THIN, HUH...
BUT IT'S PAINFUL OTHERWISE.
...


SHE WAS FORCED TO GIVE UP HER HOPES AND DREAMS AND INCREASE THAT DISTANCE.
SHE HAS NO DESIRE TO CAUSE PAIN. BUT ENDS UP HURTING HERSELF AND OTHERS ANYWAYS.


CAN BE SEEN AS THE DISTANCE NOEMI KEEPS BETWEEN HERSELF AND OTHERS.
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THESE DESKS

WELL, IT'S TOTALLY NATURAL THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

LIVING ALONE A MILLION DESK-LENGTHS AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION.
TO THAT END, FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS... SHE LEFT BEHIND ALL THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF BECOMING A NORMAL 14 YEAR OLD,

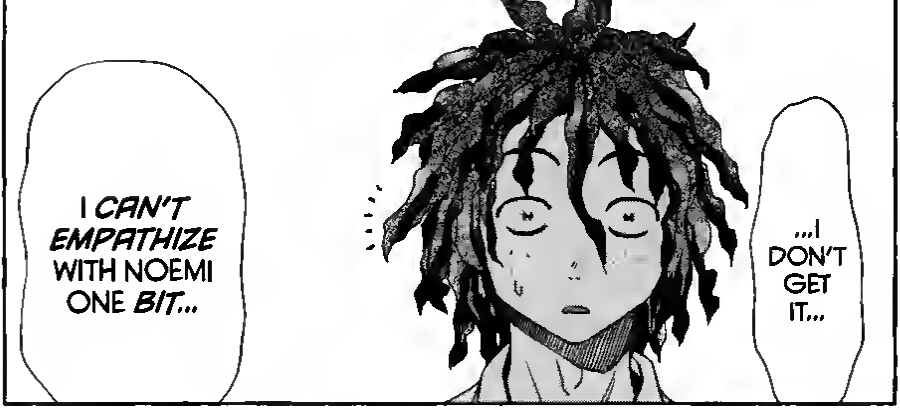

HUH? I'M ALREADY FINISHED?
YOU CAN STOP, NOW!! I ALREADY GOT YOUR ZOOM TIME!!
スパパパ
Measuring Noemi's athletic ability

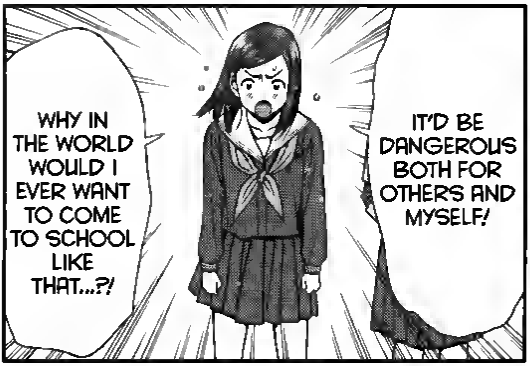
BUT...EVEN SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO COME TO SCHOOL LIKE ANY NORMAL PERSON, DOESN'T SHE?
H-HOKARI!

DOES IT MEAN THAT I'M POPULAR, THEN?!!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT BEING FAST!!!!

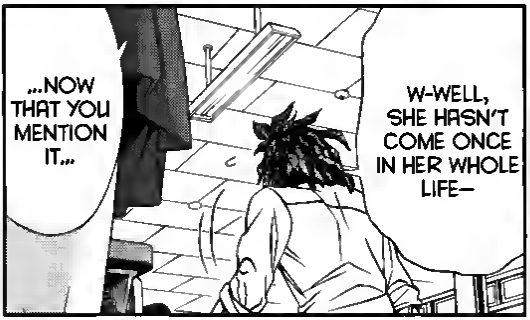
? DOES THAT MEAN I'M FAST?
How is this even possible?!
SPEAKING OF...ARE YOU TRYING TO GO TO THE OLYMPICS OR SOMETHING?!

...
AHH! IF YOU WERE HERE JUST SIX MONTHS SOONER, WE COULD HAVE PUT YOU IN ALL SORTS OF SPORTING EVENTS!
NO!
I REALLY DON'T!
! KANAKO ?!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND HER FEELINGS A LITTLE MORE, NOW?
...SO,
.....
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!!!!
WHADJA SAY, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD?! FINE, TIME FOR MY SECOND SECRET WEAPON!! USING AN ELECTRIC GENERATOR, I'LL SHOW YOU MY ULTIMATE...


...I DON'T GET IT...
I *CAN'T EMPATHIZE* WITH NOEMI ONE *BIT*...


IT'D BE DANGEROUS BOTH FOR OTHERS AND MYSELF!
WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD I EVER WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL LIKE THAT...?!

IF I HAD THAT KIND OF CONDITION...
I'D BE *DOUBLY SURE* I'D NEVER COME TO SCHOOL!!!

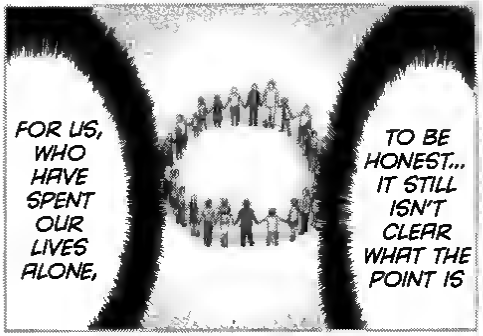

W-WELL, SHE HASN'T COME ONCE IN HER WHOLE LIFE—
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

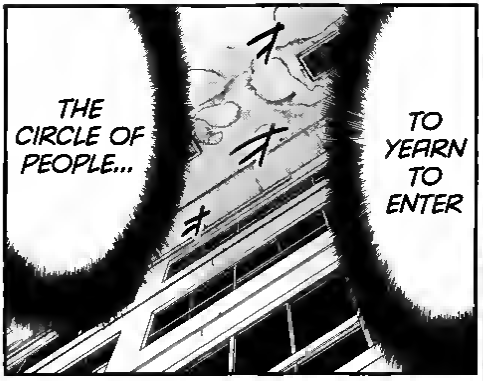
SHE CAUSES ISSUES... THERE'S DEFINITELY A BIG CHANCE OF BEING SHUNNED.
IT *IS* A BIT STRANGE TO WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL, THAT BEING THE CASE...
Y-YEAH...I FEEL SORRY ABOUT HER CONDITION AND ALL, BUT I FEEL LIKE NOT COMING TO SCHOOL WOULD BE THE BETTER CHOICE, EVEN FOR HERSELF...

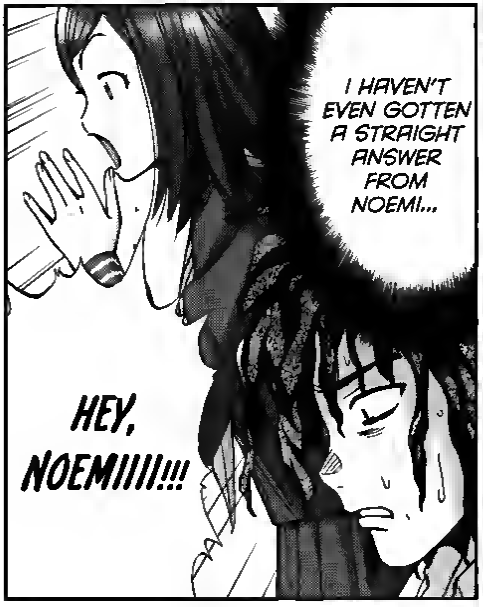
HMM, I THINK THESE SKEWERS ARE MAKING IT WORSE.
I'D BE ALONE IF I COULD, TOO.

ISN'T GOING WELL...
THIS...
...SHIT...
HEY, WAKAI. WHY DO YOU WANT NOEMI TO COME TO SCHOOL?

I KNEW IT...
WELL... SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO. SO...
THAT'S JUST NOT SOMETHING I CAN UNDER-STAND!
THIS IS A HUNDRED TIMES HARDER THAN WITH ADULTS...
I HAVE TO SEE THEM AT THE SAME LEVEL...AND BEAT IT INTO THEM RELENT-LESSLY...


FOR US, WHO HAVE SPENT OUR LIVES ALONE,
TO BE HONEST... IT STILL ISN'T CLEAR WHAT THE POINT IS

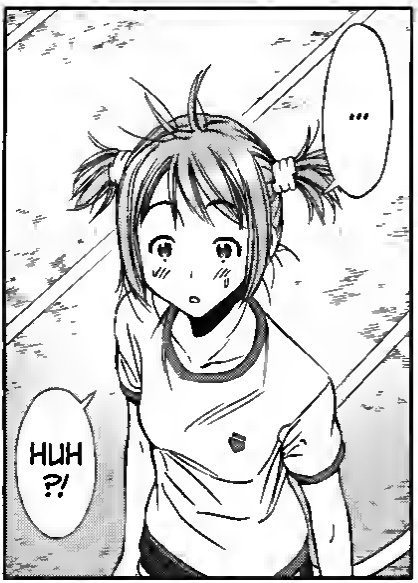

THE CIRCLE OF PEOPLE...
TO YEARN TO ENTER


I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN A STRAIGHT ANSWER FROM NOEMI...
HEY, NOEMI!!!!!

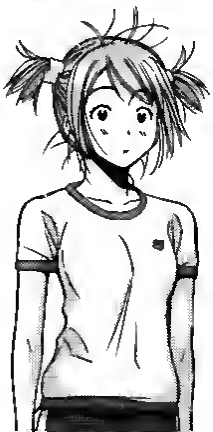
"BESIDES, IS THERE EVEN A POINT
FOR SOMEONE LIKE NOEMI TO COME TO SCHOOL?"

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU!!
WE CAN'T REALLY FIGURE IT OUT UP HERE!
?!

WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.
WHY DO YOU,


...
HUH ?!

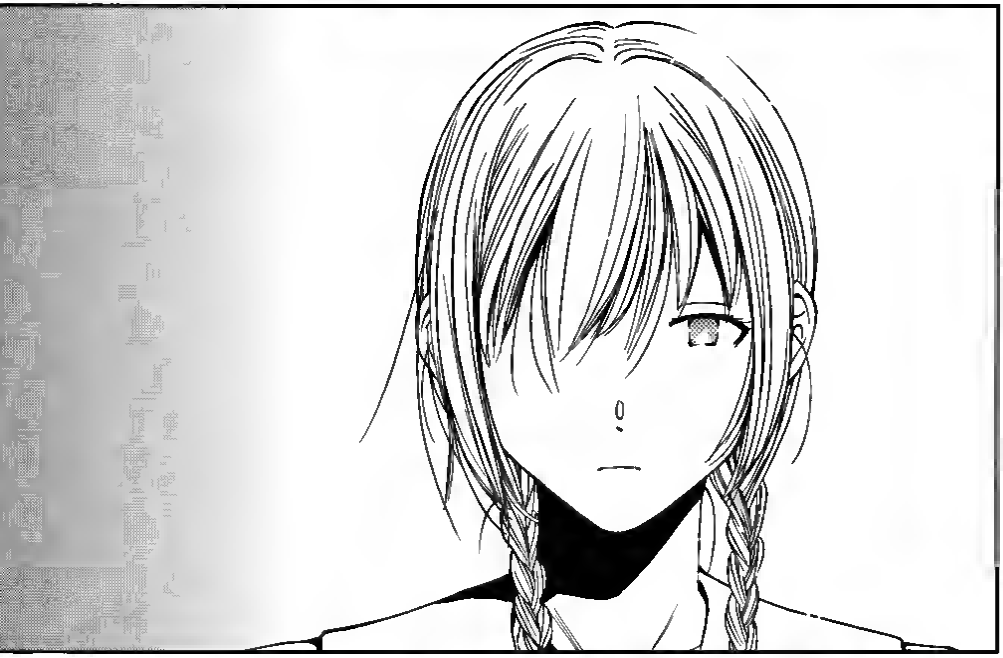
DESPITE THAT CONDI-TION OF YOURS...
STILL WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL SO BADLY?!



WELL,
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE KANZO...!!

...YOU ASK ME WHY I WANTED TO COME TO SCHOOL...
HONESTLY, THAT WAS THE ONLY REASON.
...I...
LOVE KANZO
SO, SO MUCH...
SO WHEN KANZO INVITED ME
TO COME TO SCHOOL ...
IF I GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIM...THEN I CAN SPEND AT LEAST A LITTLE MORE TIME WITH HIM, CAN'T I...?

あ ぜ ん

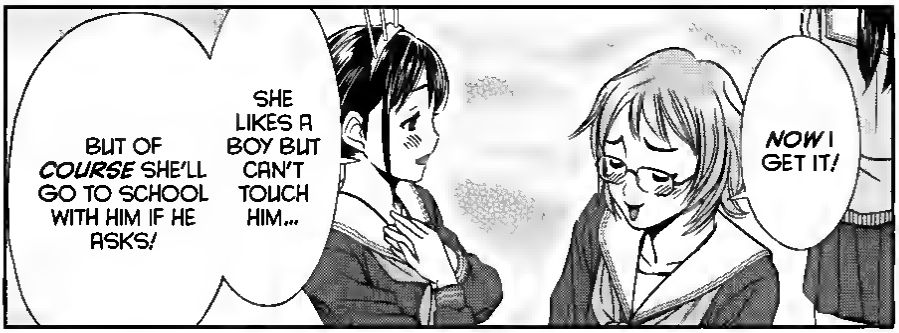


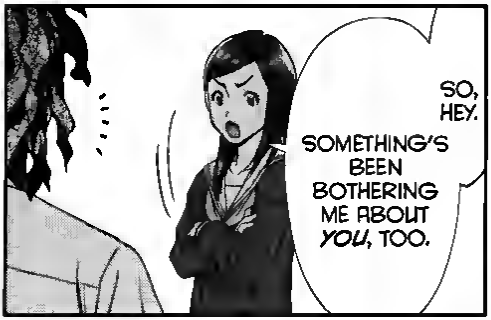
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
isn't saying "that's the only reason" going to feed this fire even more...?
T...t... that's great, but...
BLANCE
N... N... N... Noe-mi...
R... REALLY, NOW...??
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ

HUH?! WHAT?!
もー ヤダ〜ー♪
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS! YOU'RE SO SWEET, NOEMI! ♡
IT WAS THE POWER OF LOVE!! I CAN TOTALLY GET BEHIND THIS!!

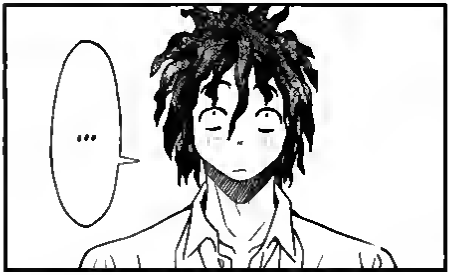
NO!! I STILL DON'T GET HOW ANYONE COULD LOVE THIS PILE OF SEAWEED!!
NOW THAT YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I ACTUALLY HAVE A HARD TIME THINKING OF WHAT'S UNLIKEABLE ABOUT HIM...

WoOoW
Gosh, that is so Wonderful


NOW I GET IT!
SHE LIKES A BOY BUT CAN'T TOUCH HIM...
BUT OF COURSE SHE'LL GO TO SCHOOL WITH HIM IF HE ASKS!


SO, HEY.
SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME ABOUT YOU, TOO.

I'D BE HEART-BROKEN IF I HAD TO DATE TAKASHI WEARING THIS...
Imagine that...
I FEEL YOU... IT'D BE SO PAINFUL TO VISIT PEOPLE LIKE THIS...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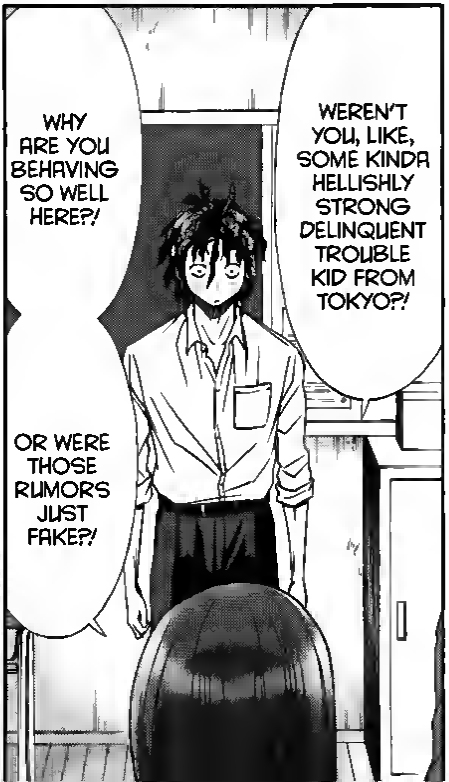

WEREN'T YOU, LIKE, SOME KINDA HELLISHLY STRONG DELINQUENT TROUBLE KID FROM TOKYO?!
WHY ARE YOU BEHAVING SO WELL HERE?!
OR WERE THOSE RUMORS JUST FAKE?!

I DUNNO WHAT KIND OF RUMORS ARE GOING AROUND, BUT...
...THE STRONG PART IS TRUE... YEAH.

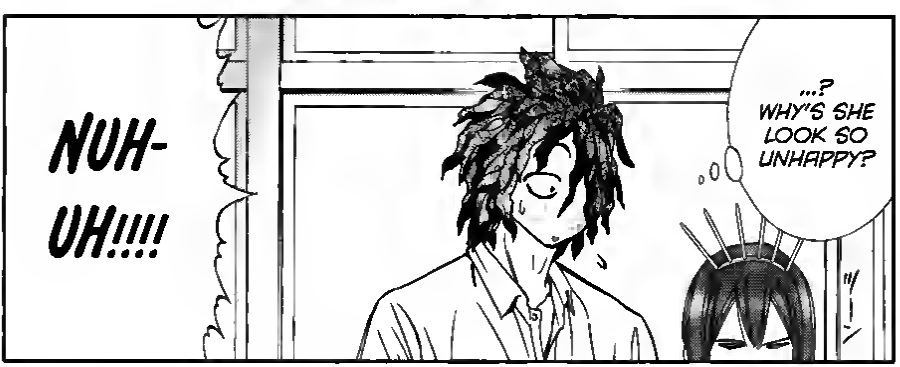
NOW I HAVE A REASON TO LIVE PROPERLY.
...BUT,
NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY REQUEST ONCE NOEMI CAME HERE, WOULD YOU?
IF I HAD CONTINUED TO CAUSE TROUBLE...
"REQUEST" ...?
...
PLEASE ...!!
...BE NOEMI'S FRIENDS.

...
PFT.
HEH.
THIS SEAWEED GUY.
THAT WAS KINDA CUTE...
"RE-QUEST," HE SAID...
WHY SO SERIOUS?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
FINE, I GOT IT.
YOU'RE TWO PEAS IN A POD!
CON-SIDER THIS AS BEST WISHES FROM THIS CLASS.
GO GET 'ER! ♡

I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HER FRIEND...!!
NOOO, UH... THIS ISN'T ABOUT LOVE...
!!!!

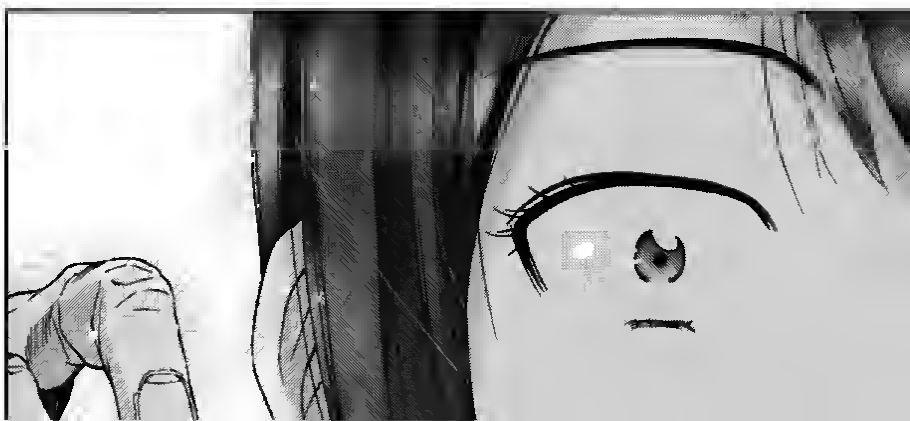
THE BEST WAY TO GET A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL'S APPROVAL...
WAS THAT...!!

SHEESH.
AFTER ALL THAT...


NUH-UH!!!!
...? WHY'S SHE LOOK SO UNHAPPY?

TO HELL WITH THAT SEAWEED BASTARD'S LOVE! WE WANT IT GONE!!!
IT'S CLASS B.
THERE'S NO WAY A CUTE GIRL LIKE NOEMI COULD POSSIBLY HAVE A BOYFRIEND!!!
DON'T JUST STEAL OUR CHANCES!!
WAIT, DON'T SETBACKS MAKE LOVE GROW STRONGER?!
UGHHHH...IF ONLY SHE WAS HERE SIX MONTHS AGO... SHE WOULD BE THE PERFECT ADDITION TO OUR TRACK AND FIELD CLUB...
I HOPE SHE COMES TO THE MAGIC CLUB, TOO!
OH!! THERE'S THE BELL!!
LUNCH BREAK!! LET'S GO HANG OUT WITH NOEMI!♪
THE SCIENCE CLUB'S DOORS ARE STILL WIIIDE OPEN!!
WE CAN DO ALL SORTS OF EXPERIMENTS WITH HER AROUND!!!
HEY!! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO HER, OKAY?!
KEEP A SKEWER'S DISTANCE AWAY! AHH, I'M GOING, TOO!!
YEESH...

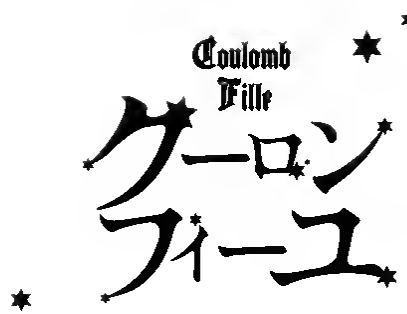
NOEMI'S... PRETTY BRAVE FOR PULLING OUT THAT CONFESSION IN FRONT OF EVERYONE...
...STILL...



NOEMI!
♡
HEY, HEY! CAN WE PROBE AROUND YOU WITH AN OSCIL-LOSCOPE?!
SO WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE WHEN YOU GET SHOCKED IN THE CR...
NO WAY.
PH... WHAT?
HEY! DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET SOME SHOTS IN A PHOTO BOOTH TOGETHER ?!
NO, WAIT! WANNA RACE ME IN A 100M DASH?!
PLAY YOUR FLUTE FOR US AGAIN, HOKARI!
KAN... ZO...
...

SO MANY MIRACLES ALWAYS SEEM TO FOLLOW...
AMAZING, WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU...
IT'S SO...
I WILL...
...I NEVER EXPECTED THIS TO...
HAPPEN IN MY LIFE...
NEVER FORGET THIS SIGHT...

If we think back on it,
.....
on the day she started school,
HUH? WHERE'S YURIE?
NO IDEA.
Noemi's happiness may have reached its peak...


Coulomb
Fille
クーロン
フィーユ

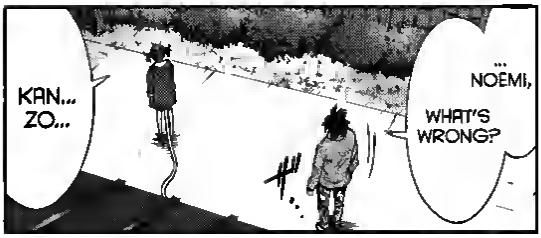
The next day...
...HUH? WHERE'S SEAWEED TODAY?
キーン
HE'S NOT HERE TODAY...
コーン
OH, I JUST TOOK A LOOK IN THE STEEL PLATE ROOM AND NOEMI'S NOT HERE, EITHER!
キーン
WHAT?! THEY'RE ALREADY SKIPPING THE DAY AFTER THEY STARTED?!
コーン
I BET THEY'RE SKIPPING CLASS TO GO ON A DATE!
ギャ!
LOOKS LIKE YURIE ISN'T HERE, EITHER...
... HUH?
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
ゴゴゴ
SEAWEED CALLED ME YESTERDAY, ASKING "DO YOU KNOW WHERE YURIE IS?"
...HEY...

The Mitsuhashi house
...YES, HELLO?
IS THIS THE POLICE?
...UM, MY DAUGHTER DISAPPEARED YESTERDAY...
...
NO LUCK... I WENT AS FAR AS THE RIVER, BUT SHE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...
!! NOEMI! HOW'D IT GO?!
=HAH=
=HAH=

I'M SURE SHE WAS IN SCHOOL AT LEAST UNTIL NOON...!
...DAMN IT...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, YURIE...?!
CUT IT OUT!! OF COURSE I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!!
SHOULDN'T YOU DO THE SAME?!
I'M GONNA GO LOOK ONE MORE TIME!!
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY! SHEESH, YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND ON NO SLEEP ALL NIGHT!
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!!!
HUH ?!!
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW WE'RE JUST A COUPLE OF USELESS KIDS!!
SQUAWK!!
SQUAAWK
...CORO ...?
SQUAAWK

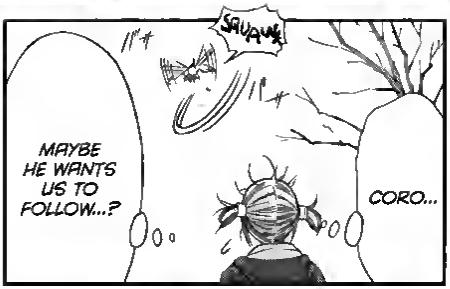
!!

SQUAAA


KAN...
ZO...
...
NOEMI,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

IS MAKING A HUGE COMMOTION...
SQUAWK!!
SQUAWK
...HUH?
CORO...
IT'S...
WHENEVER THIS HAPPENS...
ALWAYS BECAUSE *SOMETHING MAJOR* IS HAPPENING...

SQUAWK!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOME-THING...
OW! THAT HURTS! WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH YOU?!
...
MAJOR ...?


SQUAWK
MAYBE HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW...?
CORO...

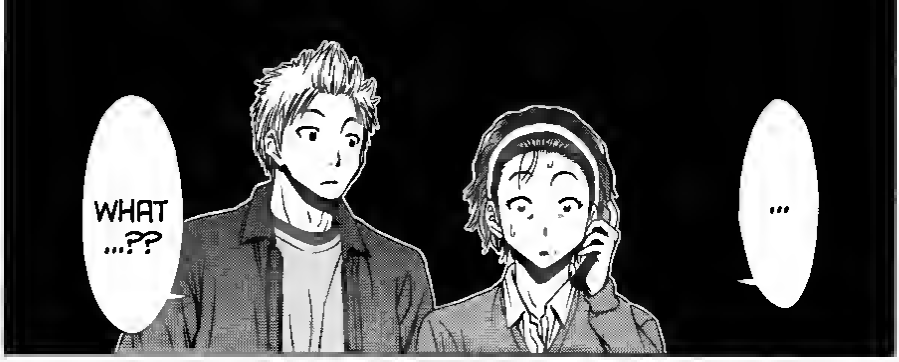
OH!
SQUAWK!!

EX-CUSE ME!!
I'LL BE GOING OUT FOR A BIT!!!

.....

UM!! AUNTIE, I'M SORRY!!
PLEASE LET ME TAKE A BREAK FROM CLEANING THE BATH TODAY!!
HUH?

HEY, HOLD ON!! NOEMI ?!!
W-WAIT..
HUH?
WAIT!! I'M COMING, TOO!!!
...HUH, THAT'S WEIRD.
WHY WOULD KANZO'S DAD BE CALLING AT THIS TIME?
HELLO, TECCHAN? WHAT'S THE NEWS? I WASN'T EXPECTING A CALL FROM YOU.
HUH? AN EMER-GENCY...?
HUH ??
France
SORRY, MICCHAN.
SOMETHING URGENT JUST POPPED UP IN MY WORK...
...DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE HEARD
ANY RUMORS OF A GIRL NAMED "NOEMI HOKARI" AROUND YOUR AREA?

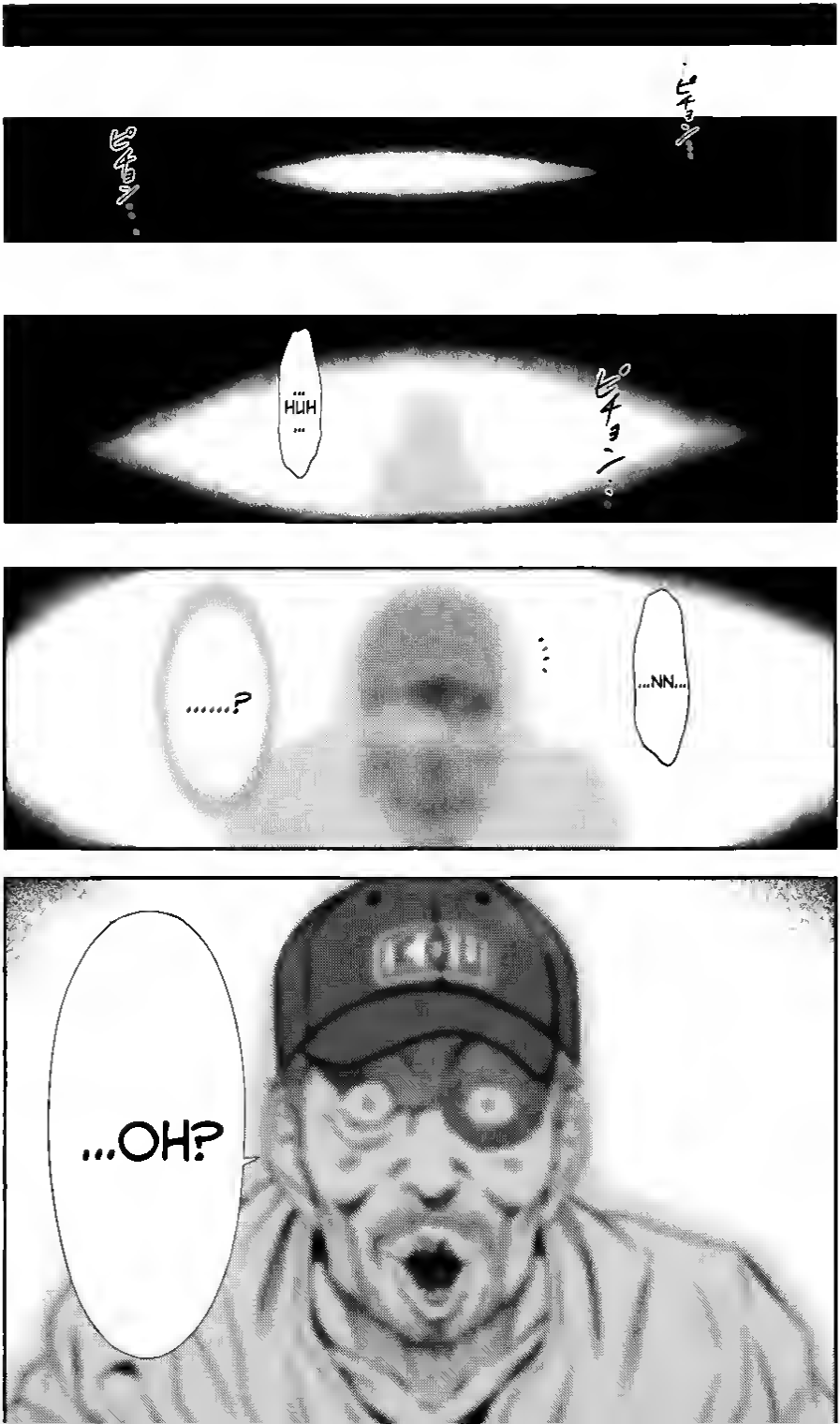

WHAT ...??
...

...it was always like this.
SQUAWK!!
with Coro making a huge racket.

...Back when Uncle died...
Hah
WE STILL... HAVE SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW...
and when the cabin burned down...
Hah..

HAH
I WONDER IF WE'LL BE HEADING HOME ANY TIME SOON...
Hah..
.....
Now that I think back on it...
HAH

And every time, completely out of the blue,
my whole life until that point in time
suddenly collapsed around me...


ピチョン…
ピチョン…
…HUH…
ピチョン…
……?
…NN…
…OH?

.....
SO...
YOU'RE AWAKE...

...
WH...
LONG TIME... NO SEE...
...THAT... ...FACE...
...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
HE'S THAT...
KID-NAPPER FROM 9 YEARS AGO!!!!
PLAY NICE WITH HIM, OKAY, YURIE?

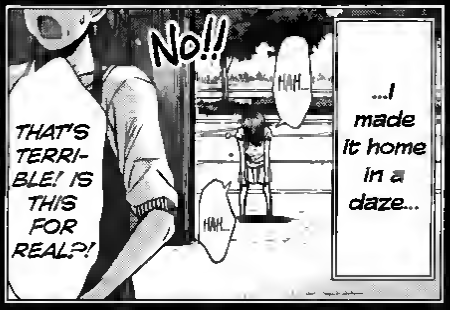
9 years ago...
THIS IS YOUR SECOND COUSIN, KANZO.
HE'LL BE HERE FOR TWO DAYS.
HEY... KAN... ZO... WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY WITH?
HEY, DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR BY YOURSELF, OKAY?
たっ
たっ
...GET AWAY FROM ME...
ポツ
HUH ...?
I MEAN, YOU'RE JUST GONNA HATE ME, TOO, AREN'T YOU...
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME.
しょぼん
...N...
NO WAY ...

!!?
MM ...?!
THIS IS A MEETING OF FATE...
GREAT, WHAT A SUC-CESS...
PHH?!
MFH!
WHAT A CUTIE...!!
... WELL, WELL ...
HELP...
TO THAT CAR OVER THERE!
SOME-ONE...!!
WHAT'S GOING... ON...?
I'VE GOT CANDY, ALRIGHT?!
JUST COME WITH ME...
BEHAVE YERSELF!!
WHAT...
HUH ...??!
:)

あ
THE HELL D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! LET GO!
HEY, OLD MAN!!
SHEESH... I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY, BUT IT LOOK'S LIKE I CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM YOU...
GAH... ACH...!
TRY ME!!
ガゴッ
SHUDDUP!! I'LL KILL YOU, FUCKING BRAT!!
AUGH?!?
SHE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!
MGH!
HEY, DON'T JUST WATCH!!!
!!

ドキン
ドキン
ドキン
ドキン
THIS OLD GUY SEEMS KINDA DANGEROUS!!
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!! RUN, STUPID!!

WELL, THE GUY ISN'T THAT GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES, SO FORTUNATELY, THEY ALL GOT AWAY.
YEAH. JUST THIS WEEK, THERE WERE 7 CASES IN THE PREFECTURE!!


No!!
HAH
HAH
THAT'S TERRIBLE! IS THIS FOR REAL?!
...I made it home in a daze...

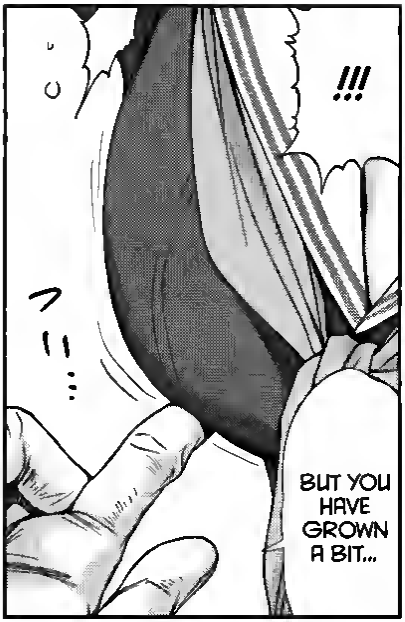
kidnapper of young girls
"SERIAL FAILED KIDNAPPER OF YOUNG GIRLS..."
HE'S STILL AT LARGE, SO WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...
pprox. 50y.o. 170cm
seball cap
ow anything a is subject
Please inform your nearest police station.

WELL, IT LOOK'S LIKE HE'S ALREADY WANTED.
THERE'S EVEN THESE WANTED POSTERS.
RUSTLE

!!!
(・)

OH, KANZO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
!!
...NOTHING.
I FELL.
GET OFF MY CASE!
WHAT?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
ドサッ
ドサッ
I could never tell any grownup what happened to me that day.
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ
...Kanzo merely seemed mildly annoyed.
But... Kanzo
and the face of that kidnapper
were permanently burned into my mind.
KQU
Approx. 50y.o., 170cm, Thin
Baseball cap

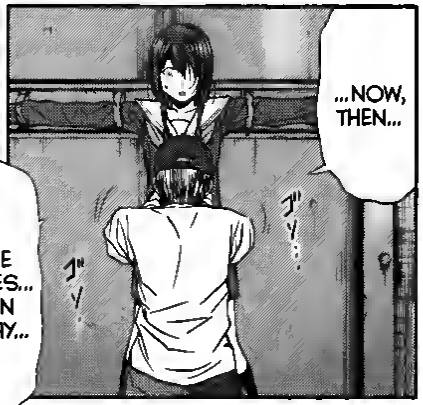
...HEH...
SEEING YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 9 YEARS...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER GET THE CHANCE TO HAVE MY REVENGE AFTER ALL THIS TIME... PFHHPT!


!!!
BUT YOU HAVE GROWN A BIT...

YEP...
YOU HAVEN'T LOST THOSE EXQUISITE LOOKS...

PHEW...
THIS TIME... I'M SUCCESSFUL...

N...
THESE CLOTHES... ARE IN THE WAY...


...NOW, THEN...

NO...
IS A GOOD THING...
IT'S A WIN-WIN...
NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU...
NO ...!!
Hah...
THIS...
NO ...!!
Hah...
NO ...!!
Hah...
IT'S OKAY...
I WON'T HURT YOU...
Hah...

...Hi
...N...?
...
...KA...

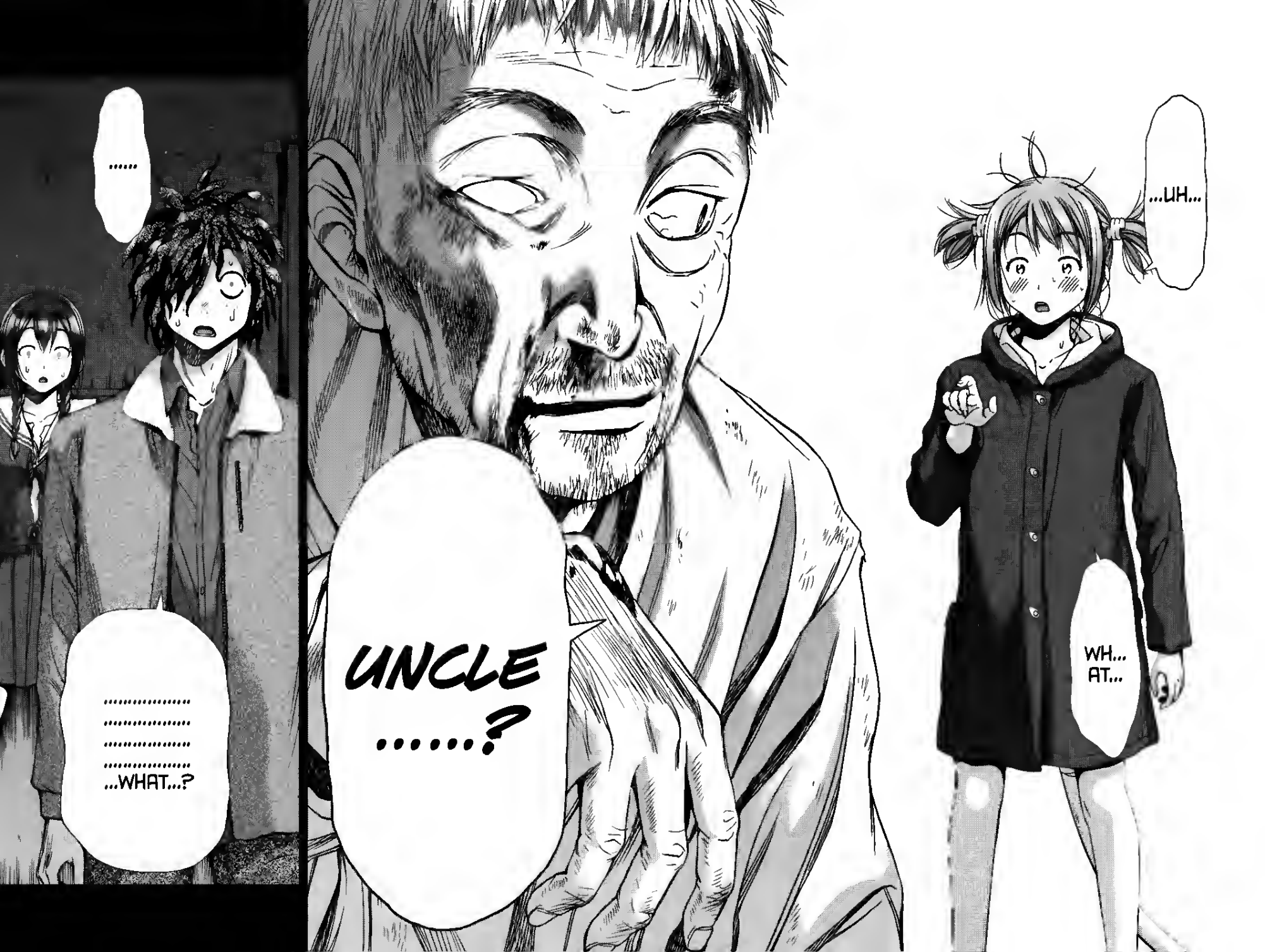
YOU GOT YOURSELF KIDNAPPED BY SOME SERIOUSLY DANGEROUS LOOKING GUY!!
Trying Not to Look
WHO THE HELL IS THIS OLD DUDE?!!

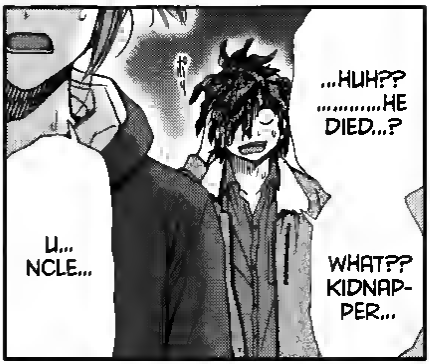
YOU IDIOT!!!!
HURRY UP AND REMEMBER ALREADY!!!
THAT GUY TRIED TO KIDNAP ME NINE YEARS AGO!!!
AND YOU SAVED ME FROM HIM!!!!

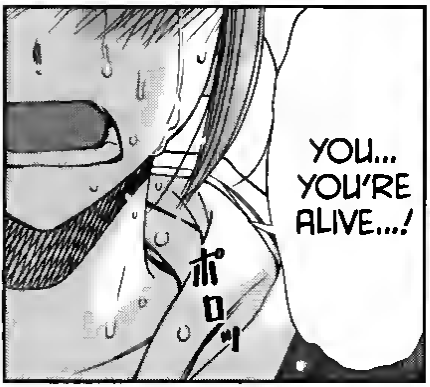
SQUAAAWK
Peek
...
WHA ...?!

GAAAA!!!
GOD DAMN IT!!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, YURIE??!!??!!

NOEMI...
...
UM...?
...
YOU'RE... TOUCHING ME...
HOLD STILL, LET ME FIX YOUR SHIRT.
WHUH ?!!
A-ARE YOU OKAY, YURIE?!
!
YOU CAME, TOO, NOEMI?!
I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D BE TAKEN TO *THAT CAVE...*
...Y... YEAH.
IT SURPRISED ME THE FIRST TIME, TOO...
SO YOU'RE AWAKE AGAIN, YOU KIDNAPPING PEDO!!
AGH!!
GUH... OUCH...
YOU AGAIN


.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
...WHAT...?
UNCLE
.....?
...UH...
WH...
AT...

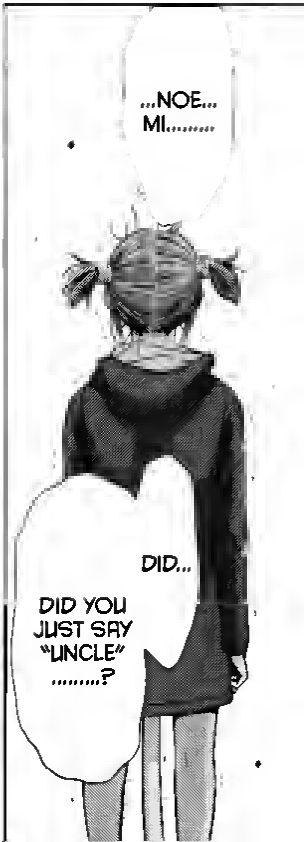

...HUH?? .....HE DIED...?
U... NCLE...
WHAT?? KIDNAP-PER...


YOU... YOU'RE ALIVE...!

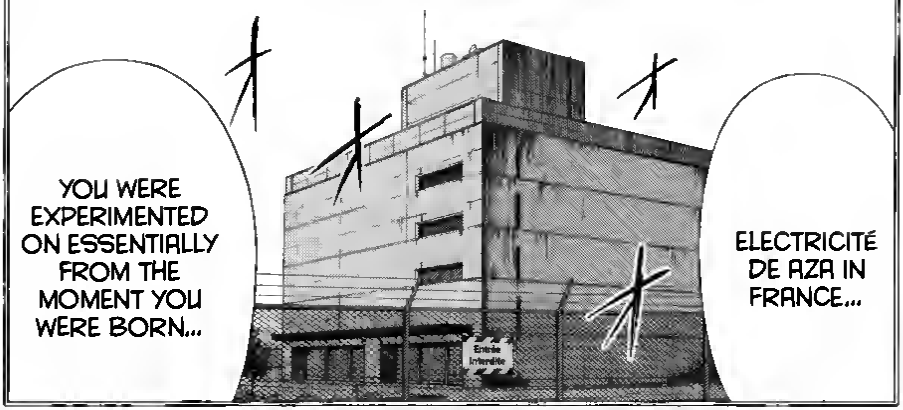
I'M..... SORRY... NOEMI...
FOR MAKING YOU THINK I DIED TWO YEARS AGO...

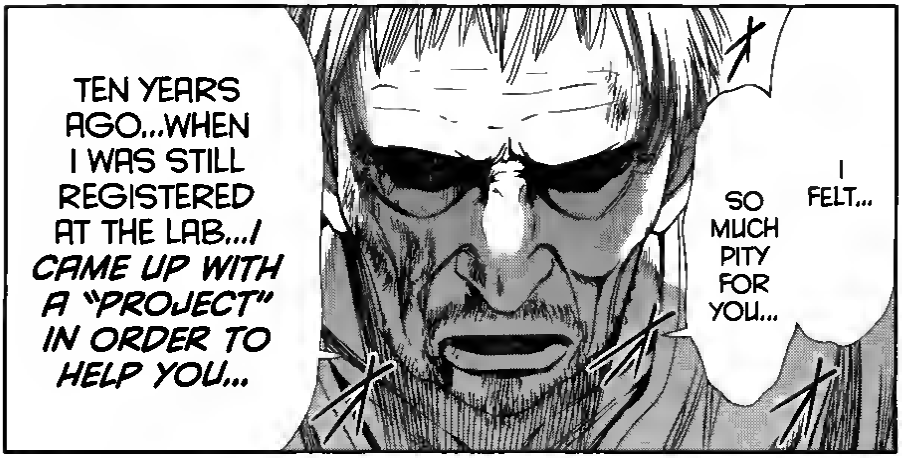
IS THIS GUY...
THE "HERO" WHO SAVED YOU FROM THAT LAB IN FRANCE...??

...
..... HUH...?


...NOE... MI.....
DID... DID YOU JUST SAY "UNCLE" .....?

AFTER LEAVING YOU ALONE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS...I'VE COME TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE TEST MATERIALS...
→KFFT...←
BUT...IT WAS WORTH IT...
THAT ASIDE, YOU...!! WHAT DID YOU KIDNAP YURIE FOR?!!! AND WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PL—
H-HEY, WHAT'S THIS GUY BLABBING ABOUT...?
...HUH ...?
AND FINALLY... WE ACHIEVED "SCHOOL LIFE," THE MOST IDEAL OUTCOME...
...
AT THE...
!!!
OF COURSE IT WAS ALL FOR NOEMI!!!!!


YOU WERE EXPERIMENTED ON ESSENTIALLY FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN...
ELECTRICITÉ DE AZA IN FRANCE...


TEN YEARS AGO...WHEN I WAS STILL REGISTERED AT THE LAB...I CAME UP WITH A "PROJECT" IN ORDER TO HELP YOU...
I FELT... SO MUCH PITY FOR YOU...

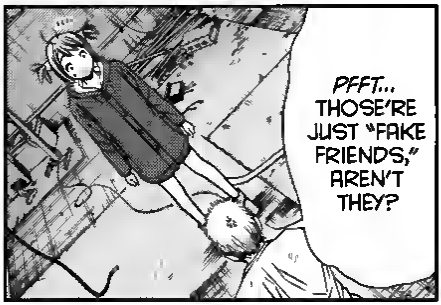
MY ATTEMPTS TO KIDNAP YOUNG GIRLS HAVE ALL BEEN FOR THIS "PROJECT..."
IT TOOK A LONG TIME... WHEN WE STARTED... NINE YEARS AGO...AND NOW...

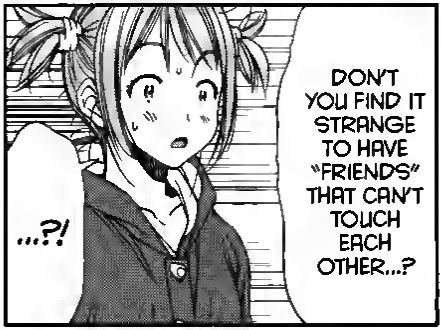
...PRO... JECT...?
Pwa...
...

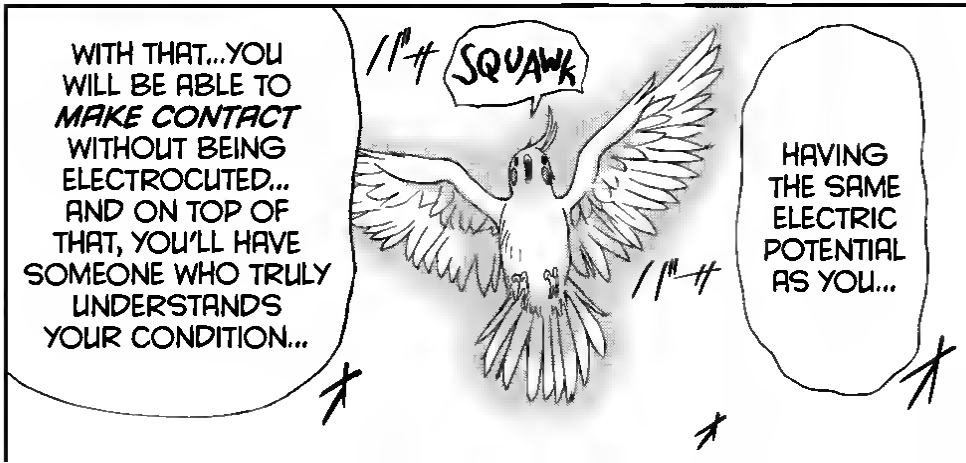
BLUSH
.....
... WHAT ...?
IT WAS TO...
MAKE FRIENDS FOR YOU! ♪
KEHE-HEHE! DO YOU GET IT NOW... NOEMI?
THAT WAS MY REASON... FOR MAKING HER COME ALL THIS WAY...

...W...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...? YURIE AND I ARE ALREADY FRIENDS...
AND ON TOP OF THAT...I GOT SO MANY FRIENDS WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL YESTERDAY WITH KANZO FOR THE FIRST TIME...

WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER YOU... HEEEHEE...
IS... FRIENDS YOU CAN ACTUALLY TOUCH...


PFFT... THOSE'RE JUST "FAKE FRIENDS," AREN'T THEY?

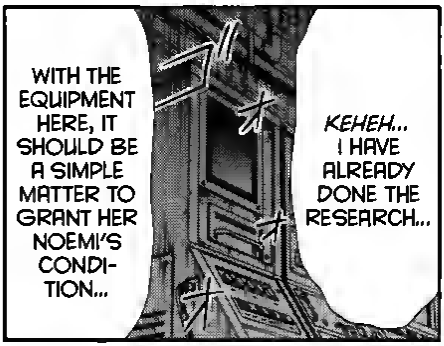

...?!
DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE TO HAVE "FRIENDS" THAT CAN'T TOUCH EACH OTHER...?

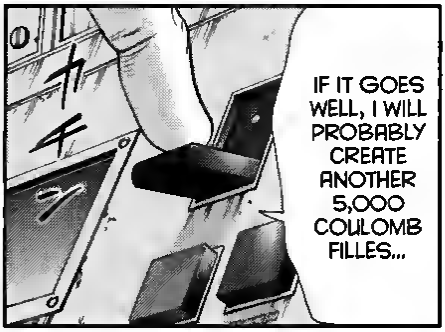

WITH THAT...YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITHOUT BEING ELECTROCUTED... AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'LL HAVE SOMEONE WHO TRULY UNDERSTANDS YOUR CONDITION...
SQUAWK
HAVING THE SAME ELECTRIC POTENTIAL AS YOU...

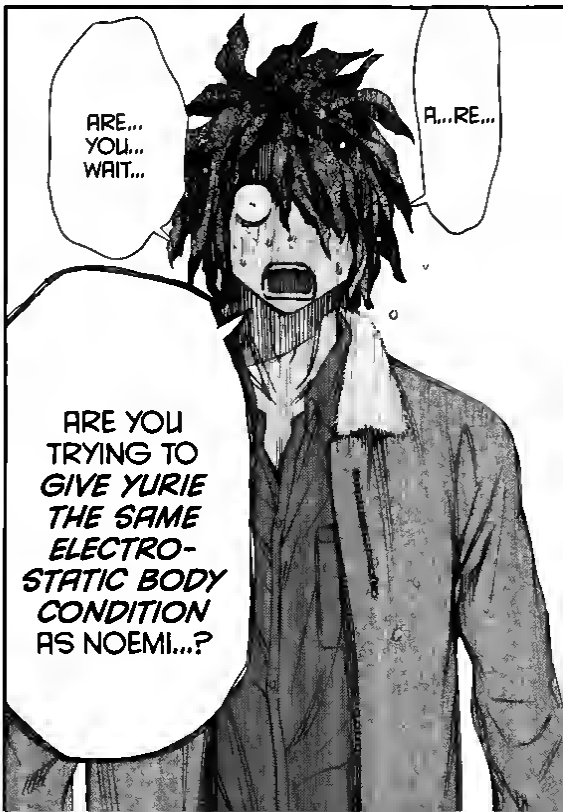
YOU COULD CALL IT...A "RACE" OF COULOMB FILLES...
I'LL MAKE YOU LOTS OF CUTE AND WONDERFUL FRIENDS...

...N...
CL...
...U...

LET'S START BY MAKING THIS GIRL YOUR FIRST FRIEND...
すわ
ALRIGHT, THEN...


WITH THE EQUIPMENT HERE, IT SHOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO GRANT HER NOEMI'S CONDI-TION...
KEHEH... I HAVE ALREADY DONE THE RESEARCH...


IF IT GOES WELL, I WILL PROBABLY CREATE ANOTHER 5,000 COULOMB FILLES...


ARE... YOU... WAIT...
A...RE...
ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE YURIE THE SAME ELECTRO-STATIC BODY CONDITION AS NOEMI...?

NOEMI WILL BE LONELY IF IT'S JUST ONE OR TWO OF THEM... PFHEHEH...
.....W...
...WHAT THE HELL...
YOU'RE NUTS...!
YOU KNOW FULL WELL HOW THIS CONDITION MAKES NOEMI FEEL...
YOU'RE TRYING TO... "GRANT" THIS CURSE?!
AND YOU SAY... IT'S "FOR NOEMI'S SAKE...??!"
YOU BITCH...!! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE I LEFT TOKYO...
THAT SUCH INTENSELY DARK FEELINGS HAVE CONSUMED ME.....!!!!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!!!!
I'LL BEAT YOU TO THE GROUND 5,000 TIMES!!!!!!!!

GET OUT OF MY WAY.

KEH... THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
グニロンフィーユ
Gnulomb fille
NOW WE'RE DOWN TO JUST THE MAIN CAST...
UN... CL...
E...
W... HA...
...T... DID YOU ...
...K...
...AN... ZO...

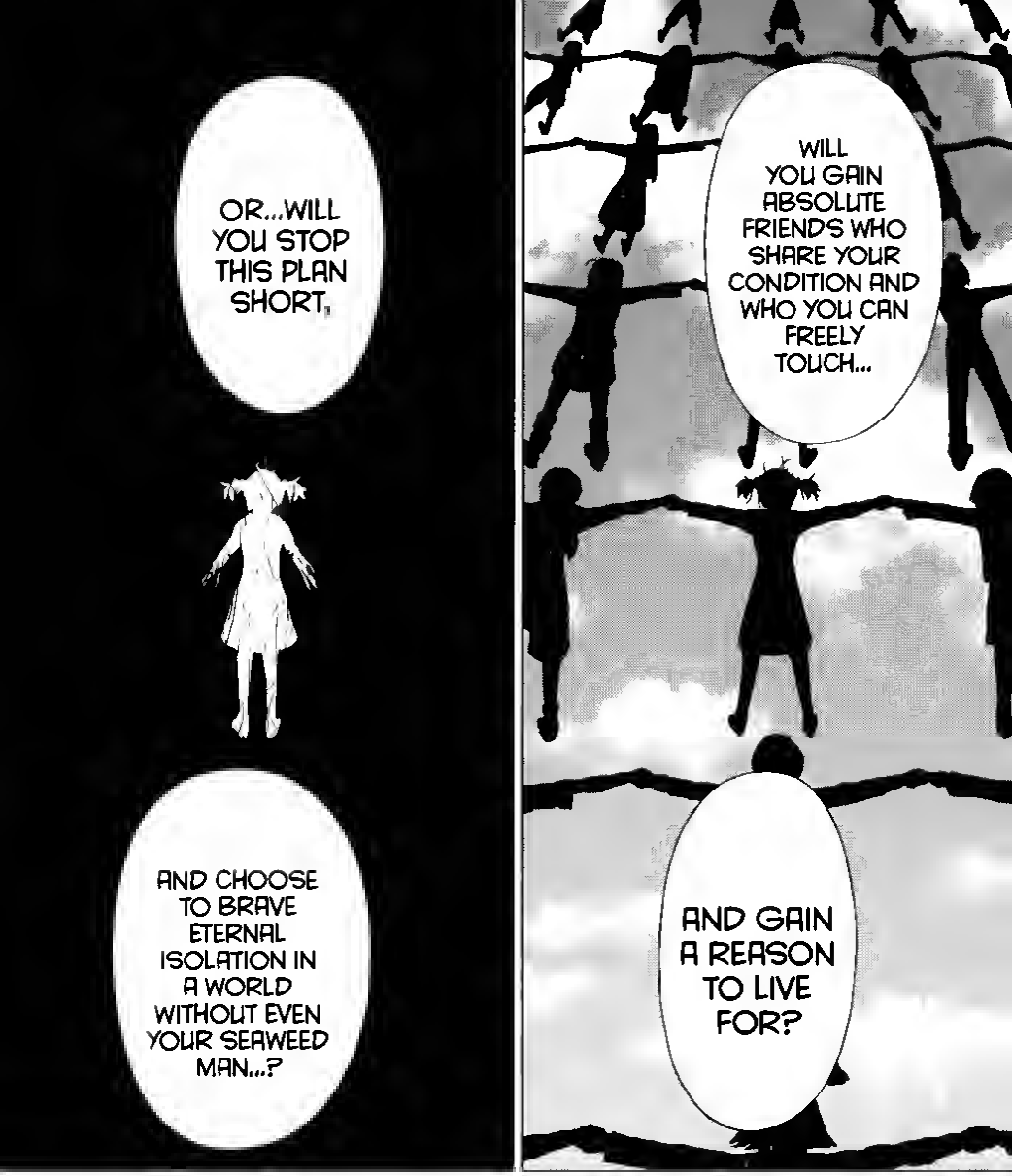
NOOO-
OOOO!!
KANZOOO-
OOOOOO-
OOOOOOO!!

LAST COULOMB Wherever in the world.

LOOK, NOEMI! I'M SO SORRY, BUT HE'S DEAD!
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND DO AS I SAY!
...
FOR... ME...?
BE-CAUSE
THIS WAS ALL FOR YOU!
EVEN... DISAP-PEARING TWO YEARS AGO...
AND DOING THESE THINGS TO YURIE AND KANZO...
YOU'RE SAYING YOU DID THIS ALL... FOR ME...?!
...NOEMI.
FIRST OF ALL...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NORMAL HUMAN TO TRULY UNDER-STAND YOU.

SHUT UP!!!
STOP DOING THESE THINGS RIGHT NOW AND CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!!!
EVEN IF THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU FOR A BIT...OR IF THEY SMILE AT YOU...
NOT EVEN THAT SEAWEED MAN...
NOR THE FAMILY THAT TOOK YOU IN...
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
...*THESE THINGS?*
AND EITHER WAY, YOU'RE FATED TO BE *EXTER-MINATED* FROM THE CIRCLE OF PEOPLE...
YOU'RE JUST A *PEST*
NOT EVEN I, IN THE EXTENT OF MY LOVE...

...WHILE I BUILT THIS LAB,
ピチャ
FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, I'VE AAALWAYS BEEN WATCHING YOU, NOEMI...
AS A RESULT...I'VE COME TO HOLD SOME STRONG BELIEFS,...
...?!
I HAVE A "COULOMB FILLE PRODUCTION INCREASE PLAN" TO CREATE TRUE "FRIENDS" FOR YOU...
BY REGULARLY COMING TO THIS PLACE WHICH DISSIPATES THE STATIC CHARGE BY MEANS OF BURIED PERMANENT MAGNETS...
オ
...WOULD YOU REJECT THAT
AND INSTEAD CHOOSE TO DIE ALONE...?
...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...
LET ME... HEAR YOUR WISHES ONE MORE TIME...
NOEMI...


OR...WILL YOU STOP THIS PLAN SHORT,
AND CHOOSE TO BRAVE ETERNAL ISOLATION IN A WORLD WITHOUT EVEN YOUR SEAWEED MAN...?
WILL YOU GAIN ABSOLUTE FRIENDS WHO SHARE YOUR CONDITION AND WHO YOU CAN FREELY TOUCH...
AND GAIN A REASON TO LIVE FOR?

FRIENDS, OR SOLITUDE ...?
DO YOU WANT...
MAKE YOUR CHOICE, NOEMI...

ピチョン…
…WELL?
ピチョン…
…
…MAKE A CHOICE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS …?
THE ANSWER IS…OBVIOUS…
THERE IS NO CHOICE…
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME LIKE THAT…
I WON'T SIMPLY BE RETURNING TO THE "SOLITUDE" FROM BEFORE I MET KANZO…!!

...FRIENDS...
HUH ...?
...UH...
NO...WAIT... THAT'S NOT RIGHT.....
.....FR...IENDS...

...
H...
WHAT...
...HUH...?
...
...I'LL ASK YOU
ONE MORE TIME... NOEMI...
...
WHAT... AM I SAYING ...?
...
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE AND DIE ALONE? OR...
DO YOU WANT FRIENDS...?
...
NO...
NO...
I... WANT...
FRIENDS...
NO...I CAN'T STOP MYSELF...

I... DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE...
HELP... ME...
SOME-ONE...
WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE ALONE...!!!
WANT TO REMEMBER...
DON'T ...
I...

No... way...
...EMI...
.....NO...
...I've never seen anyone
suffer as much as her before...
...
...THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN SAVE HER...
...YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE AFRAID... THERE'S NO DANGER IN THIS...
...WITH HER CONDI-TION...
IS MYSELF

AAHH... THAT'S MY FAULT...
AH...
CLICK
.....I WAS...
NEVER MEANT TO MINGLE WITH OTHER PEOPLE...
AFTER ALL...
DON'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD...
AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIKE ME...
IF I JUST DIE.....!!!
...HEY.

DO SOMETHING *REAL* STUPID, WEREN'T YOU...
...YOU WERE ABOUT TO
... HUH...?
...

.....
.....KA...
.....
...UH...??
AGH!!?

...Y...
...EH...
HOW DID YOU ...??!
KAN... ZO...
... UH...
HOW... THE GUN... YOU... YOUR HEAD...
...JEEZ.
I KNEW THIS STUFF WAS KINDA TOUGH,
BUT I HAD NO IDEA...

...KAN...
ZO.....
YOU...
SQUISH
SQUELCH
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SEAWEED HAIR MADE OF? IT JUST SAVED MY LIFE!
THIS HAIR OF MINE WAS BULLET-PROOF!

LEMME ASK YOU SOME-THING...
HEY... NOEMI!

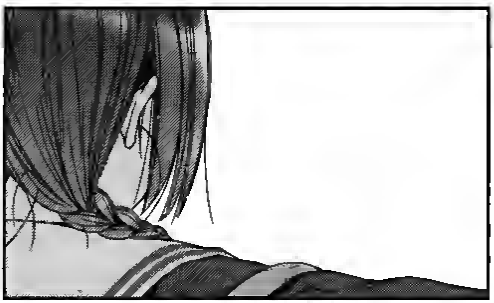
...DO YOU THINK SO, TOO?
THAT GEEZER SAID EARLIER THAT IT'S WEIRD TO HAVE FRIENDS YOU CAN'T TOUCH, RIGHT?

!
WE CAN'T BE CLOSE IF WE CAN'T TOUCH?
SO WERE WE ALL JUST "WEIRD FRIENDS" TO YOU ALL THIS TIME?
KAN...
ZO...
LEMME TELL YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT NOT TOUCHING!!
IF YOU SOMEHOW DISAP-PEARED FROM IN FRONT OF ME!!!
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'VE TOUCHED ME UNTIL NOW WERE JEERING AT ME...
HEH... THAT'S A DAMNED LIE...
SO...I KNOW IT VERY WELL...
...SO
EVEN IF I DIED AND WENT TO HEAVEN!!!!
EVEN IF YOU'RE ON A DIFFERENT PLANET!!!!
IF YOU'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EARTH!!!

WHEREVER YOU ARE, I'LL NEVER STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU!!!!
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY LIFE!!!!

...WHEREVER YOU ARE...
DON'T FORGET THAT...!!
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE CAN'T TOUCH... WHEREVER YOU ARE...
WE'LL NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN!!!

I'M...
NOT ALONE...



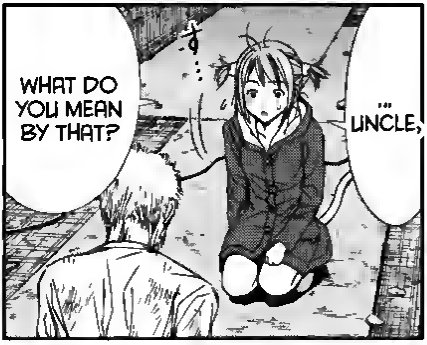
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! FUCKING GEEZER!!
WHAT?!
...?

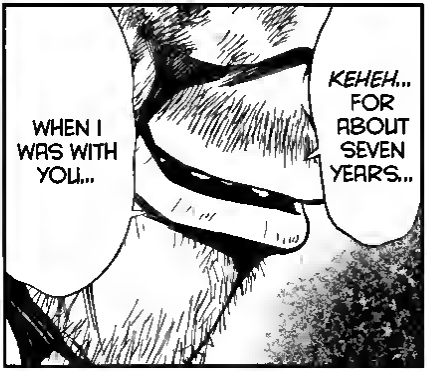
YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER COME CLOSE TO NOEMI EVER AGAIN!
PFHEH... LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE, THEN...

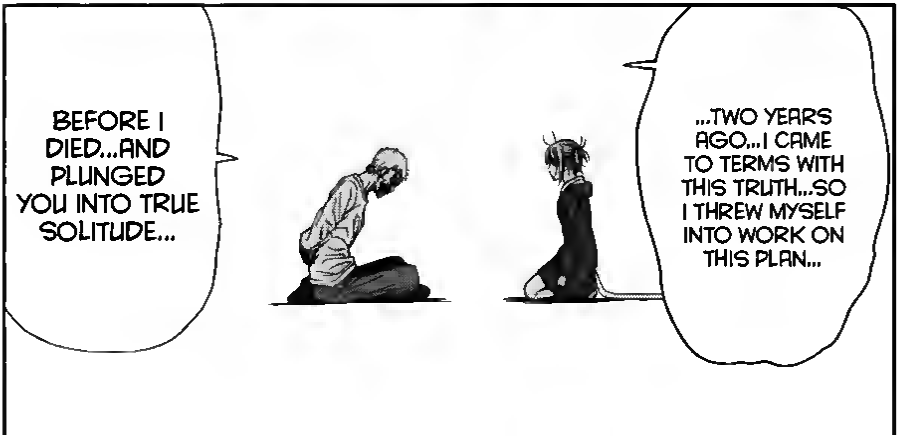
YOU...
KEHEH... YOU'RE A BIT LIKE ME...

...
TCH!! A CASE OF SOUR GRAPES, IS IT?
FORGET YOU, WE HAVE TO HELP YURIE!!

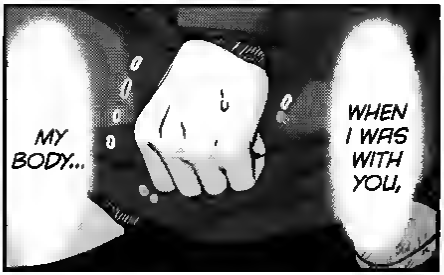
EVEN WHILE WEARING THE SUPPRESSION DEVICE...MY BODY FELL INTO RUINS.
I...DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...

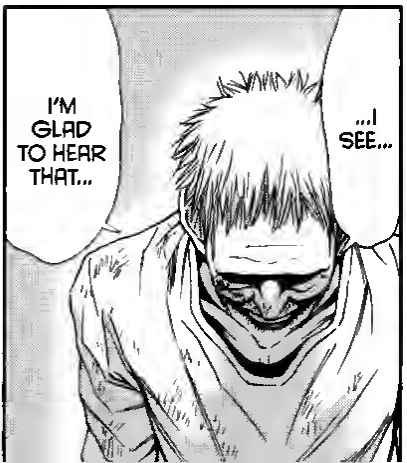

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
...UNCLE,


WHEN I WAS WITH YOU...
KEHEH... FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS...


BEFORE I DIED...AND PLUNGED YOU INTO TRUE SOLITUDE...
...TWO YEARS AGO...I CAME TO TERMS WITH THIS TRUTH...SO I THREW MYSELF INTO WORK ON THIS PLAN...

IT'S OKAY... UNCLE...
FELL INTO RUINS...


MY BODY...
WHEN I WAS WITH YOU,

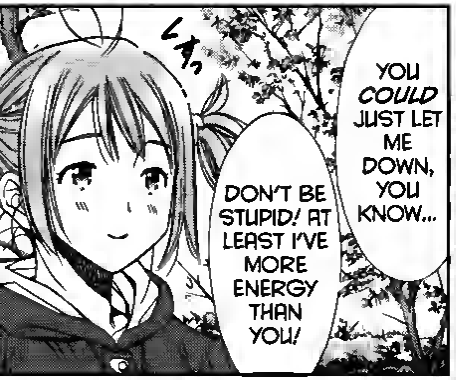

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT...
...I SEE...

UNCLE...
...I'M FINE... NOW...

KAZUTO LENT ME A PHONE, BUT...

EVEN THOUGH I CALLED THE EMERGENCY HOTLINE, WE STILL HAVE TO GO BACK TO TOWN...

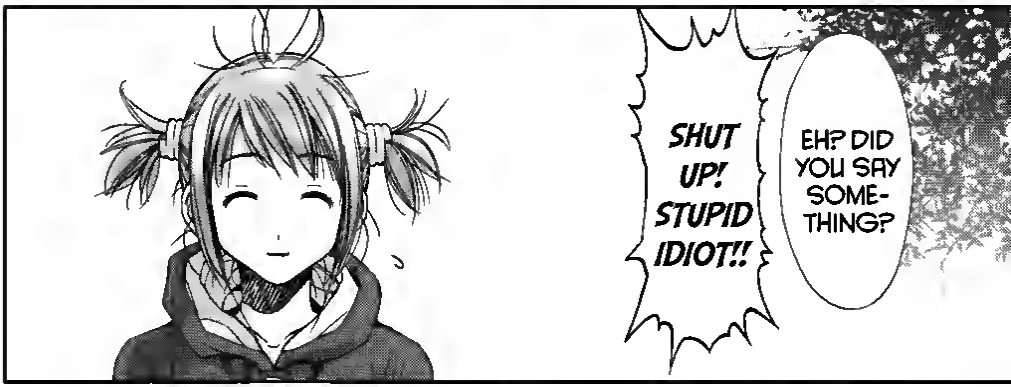
MAN, I'M BEAT...

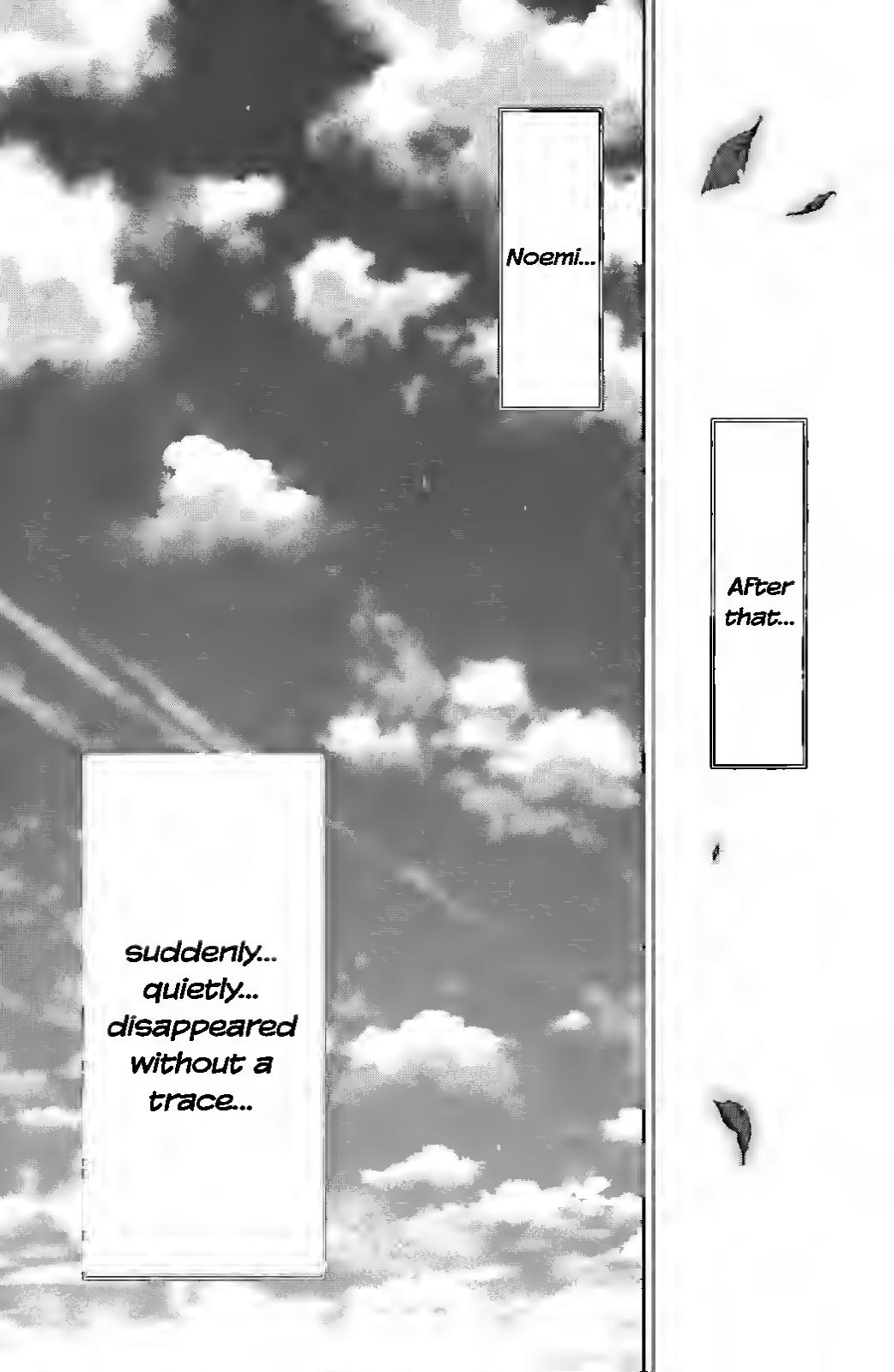


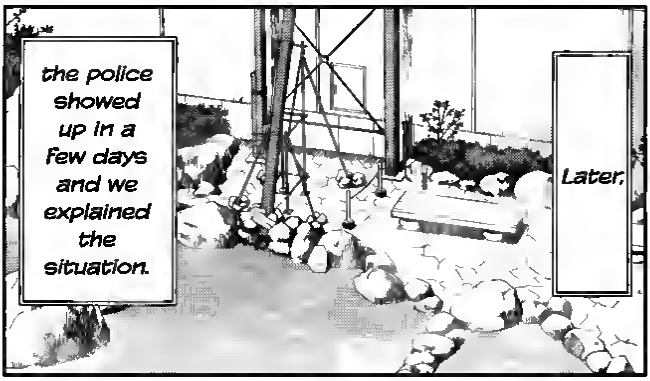
I AM...

TRULY GLAD...

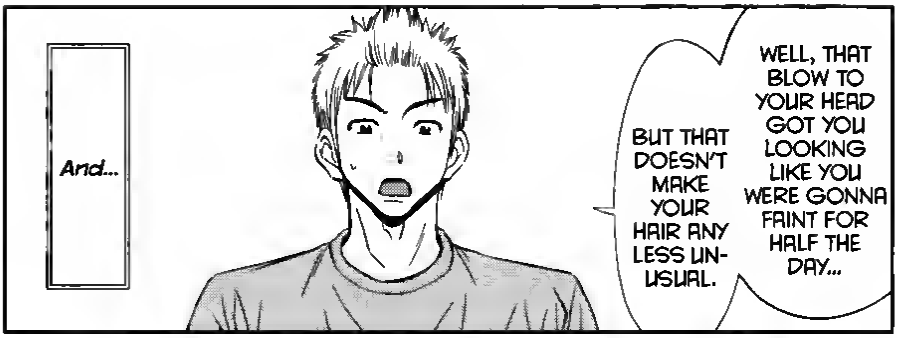
I'M NOT ONE TO GIVE UP EASILY.
HMPH...
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE GREATEST LOVE OF MY LIFE!!!!
...


SHUT UP! STUPID IDIOT!!
EH? DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?


Noemi...
After that...
suddenly... quietly... disappeared without a trace...

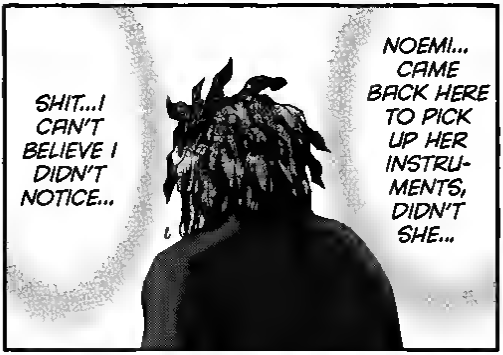

the police showed up in a few days and we explained the situation.
Later,

I heard later on that the gun actually didn't have any stopping power to begin with.
A-4
Noemi's uncle was arrested inside that cave, but he died within two days...


And...
WELL, THAT BLOW TO YOUR HEAD GOT YOU LOOKING LIKE YOU WERE GONNA FAINT FOR HALF THE DAY...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOUR HAIR ANY LESS UNUSUAL.

OF BROKEN APPLIANCES...
...LEAVING BEHIND A SWATH

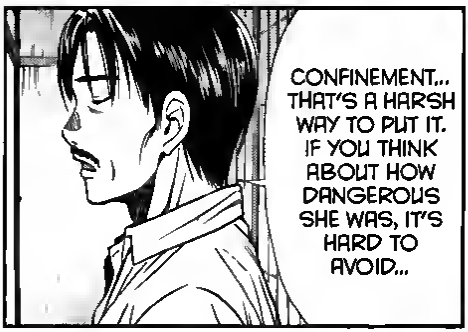
Before we knew it,
Noemi's instruments had all disappeared from the house...


SHIT...I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T NOTICE...
NOEMI... CAME BACK HERE TO PICK UP HER INSTRUMENTS, DIDN'T SHE...

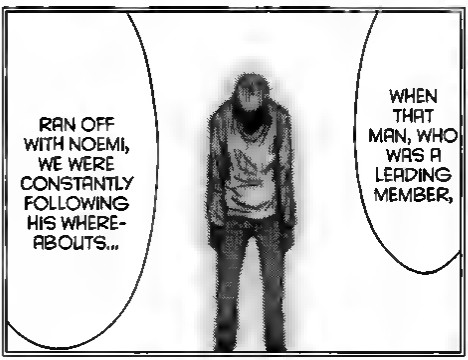
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND WITHOUT SLEEP FOR DAYS ON END...
ギシ

...DAD... WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
YOU SHOULD STILL BE...
...YOU'LL KEEL OVER IF YOU KEEP THAT UP.
TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF "NOEMI HOKARI."
HUH ...?!!
...WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVEN'T MADE IT ON TIME.
HONESTLY... I WAS ALREADY SURPRISED TO LEARN SHE WAS LIVING IN JAPAN, BUT TO THINK YOU CAME TO KNOW HER...
W...
WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE?! H-HOW DID YOU...?!

KANZO... THAT FRENCH COMPANY I WORK FOR— THE E.D.A.—
HAS ACTUALLY BEEN "TAKING CARE OF" NOEMI SINCE SHE WAS BORN...


CONFINEMENT... THAT'S A HARSH WAY TO PUT IT. IF YOU THINK ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS SHE WAS, IT'S HARD TO AVOID...

E...D... A...?
I...IS THAT... THE LAB...
THAT... KEPT NOEMI IN CONFINE-MENT...??!


WHEN THAT MAN, WHO WAS A LEADING MEMBER,
RAN OFF WITH NOEMI, WE WERE CONSTANTLY FOLLOWING HIS WHERE-ABOUTS...

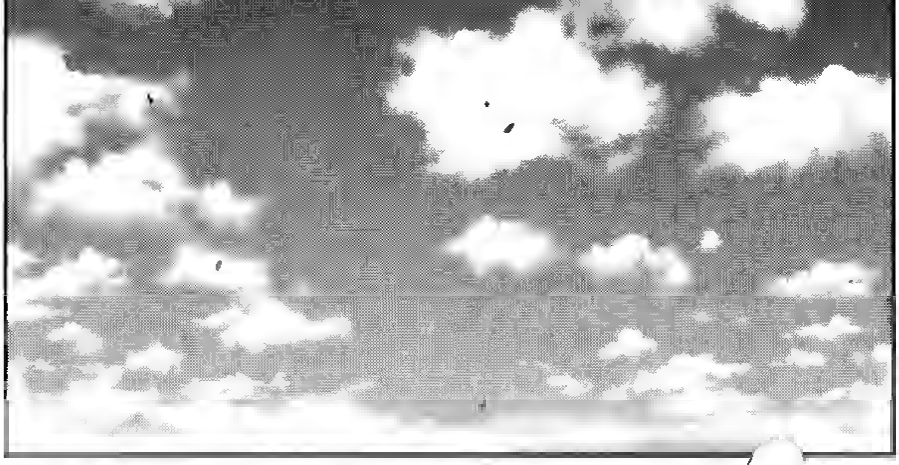
ARE... YOU...
SERIOUS... YOU WERE... CHASING NOEMI...

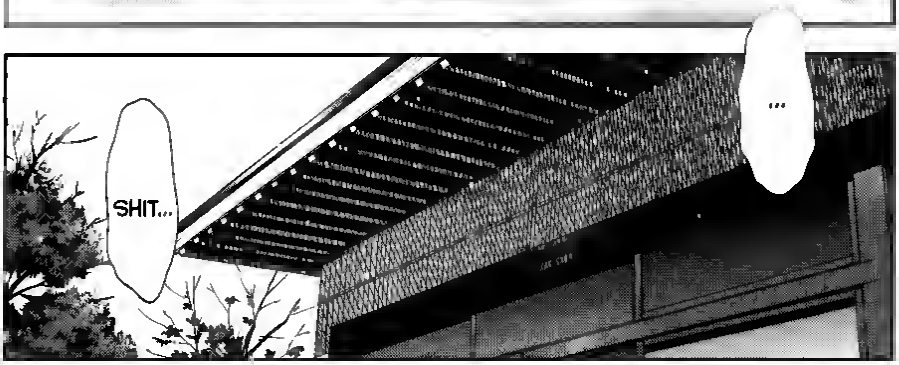
WHEN SHE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL TWO WEEKS AGO, WE FINALLY GOT WORD THAT THEY WERE HERE...

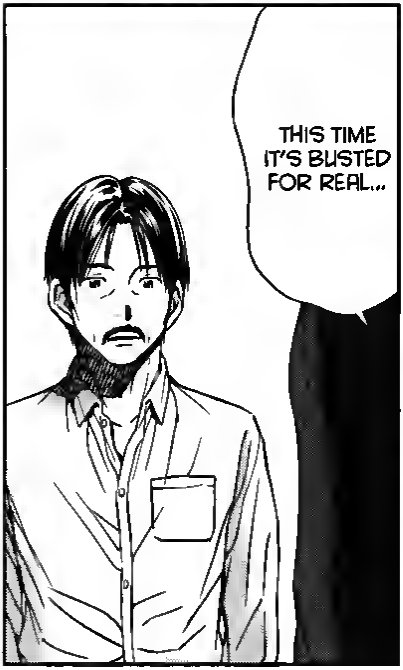
!
HIT IT OFF PRETTY WELL, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU TWO REALLY
RUSTLE
...
KANZO,
FLIP
THE BACK ...?
HUH?
...THAT WAS LEFT IN YOUR ROOM.
HAVE YOU LOOKED ON THE BACK?
THIS...
...IS...

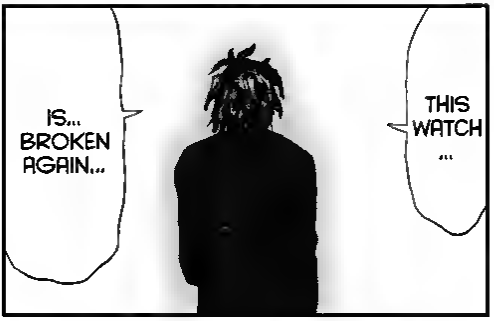
IS THIS... FRENCH? I CAN'T READ IT...
WHAT'S IT SAY...?
...NOEMI PROBABLY WROTE THAT.
...
"WHEREVER YOU ARE...
YOU WILL NEVER BE ALONE.

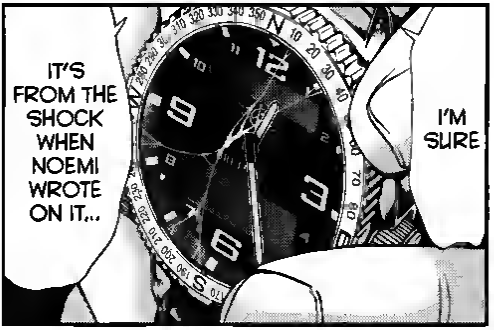
BECAUSE
I'M HERE..."




...
SHIT...

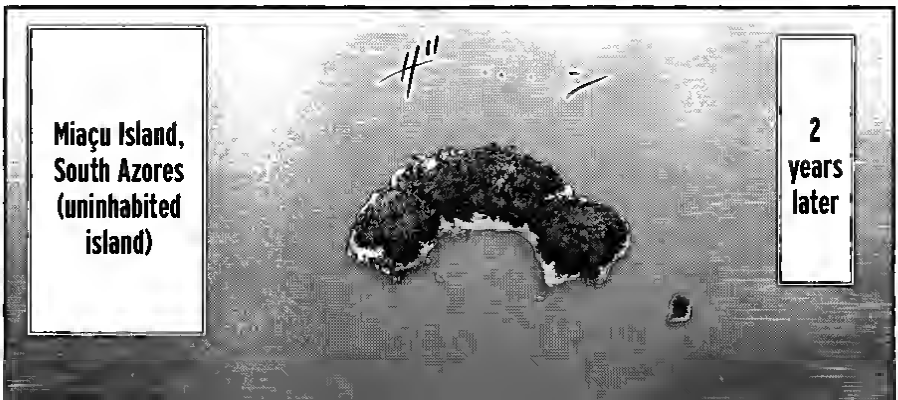

THIS TIME IT'S BUSTED FOR REAL...


IS... BROKEN AGAIN...
THIS WATCH ...


IT'S FROM THE SHOCK WHEN NOEMI WROTE ON IT...
I'M SURE

COM-
PANY
GOING
TO KEEP
CHASING
NOEMI...?
IS
YOUR...
HEY...
DAD.
SHE IS ONE
OF OUR MOST
VALUABLE
ASSETS...
...OF
COURSE.
WILL
STOP AT
NOTHING
TO GO
WORK
THERE...
I...
...IN
THAT
CASE,

SO THAT...
THE HAND OF THIS WATCH CAN MOVE AGAIN...


Miaçu Island, South Azores (uninhabited island)
2 years later

YEOW!!
UGH...I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THIS TRUMPET SHOCKING ME...
NOW, THEN ...
.....

ONCE AGAIN TODAY,
YOU'RE LIVING INSIDE MY HEART! ♪
Fin

Thank you so much for reading to the end!

I plan to write a sequel, "Coulomb Fille ~suite~" and self-publish it!! Details can be found at http://www.tuchinoko.com/coulomb/kokuti.htm!

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Coulomb Fille 3

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